United Nations A/69/161

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Item 63 (a) of the provisional agenda*
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: twelfth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 68/301, coincides with the formulation of the African Union's Agenda 2063, shaping a new direction in the continent towards regional integration and achieving African renaissance. Agenda 2063 and the international commitment to support its implementation provide an additional impetus to the role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and highlight the need for further support. The report also coincides with the Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held on 14 and 15 June 2014 in Dakar, at which participants adopted the Dakar Agenda for Action to prioritize the financing of key regional infrastructure projects. Furthermore, in the solemn declaration adopted by the African Union Summit on 26 May 2013 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union key priorities for the continent's development over the next 50 years were identified, with particular emphasis on industrialization. This is also an important pillar of the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda, adopted by the African Union in January 2014. As a result, the importance of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency is increasing as it becomes the vehicle for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

* A/69/150.

14-57942 (E) 220814

Please recycle

The present report assesses progress achieved in implementing NEPAD projects and programmes, as well as support provided by the international community over the past 12 months. While highlighting the progress African countries made in implementing NEPAD, the report underscores the continued need for African countries to strengthen domestic resource mobilization to underpin financing for NEPAD programmes and projects. Engaging the private sector will also be key to mobilizing the necessary funding for NEPAD projects, particularly in infrastructure. The report calls upon the international community to prioritize its support for Africa and to align its support to NEPAD priorities, including those encapsulated in the African Common Position and the forthcoming African Union Agenda 2063. To strengthen international cooperation for development and facilitate the implementation of NEPAD, development partners should take urgent steps to successfully conclude the Doha Round of trade negotiations with a development dimension, deliver on aid commitments and improve aid effectiveness. In view of the rapidly approaching deadline for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, juxtaposed with the urgent task of accelerating progress towards achieving the goals in Africa, business as usual is not an option for Africa or its development partners.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Action taken by African countries and organizations	4
	A. Infrastructure	4
	B. Agriculture and food security	5
	C. Health	6
	D. Education and training	7
	E. Environment and tourism	8
	F. Information and communications technology	9
	G. Science, technology and innovation	10
	H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation	11
	I. African Peer Review Mechanism	11
III.	Response of the international community: building on the momentum of international support for Africa's development	13
	A. Introduction	13
	B. Official development assistance	14
	C. Debt relief	16
	D. Foreign direct investment and other private flows	17
	E. Trade	17
	F. South-South cooperation	18
	G. Millennium Village Project	19
IV.	Support provided by the United Nations system	19
	A. General	19
	B. Strengthening of the regional consultation mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme and the cluster system	20
V.	Conclusion and recommendations	20

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/301, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that resolution.

2. The report highlights policy measures taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as well as the response of the international community and support provided by the United Nations system during the past year. The activities undertaken by the private sector and civil society in support of NEPAD are also highlighted. The report benefited from information provided by Member States, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, the regional economic communities, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), members of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs organizations of the United Nations system and other NEPAD stakeholders.

II. Action taken by African countries and organizations

3. NEPAD is both a collective vision and a strategic socioeconomic development framework for Africa. Its main objective is to generate broad-based and equitable economic growth that allows Africa to reduce poverty and better integrate into the global economy. Translating this vision into action requires implementation of the key sectoral priorities of NEPAD. Each country is expected to assume responsibility for implementing the NEPAD programme at the national level and designing a national blueprint consistent with NEPAD goals. In addition, the regional economic communities, which are the operational arms of the African Union in driving the integration agenda, play a leading role in implementing projects at the subregional level. The NEPAD Agency plays an instrumental role in coordinating the implementation of subregional and continental programmes and projects.

A. Infrastructure

4. In recognition of the importance of infrastructure development, African countries committed to making it a top priority through the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which serves as the overarching framework for infrastructure development in Africa. In line with their commitments, African countries continued to make efforts over the past 12 months to accelerate infrastructure development through the implementation of the Programme, with the aim of transforming Africa through the development of infrastructure in transport, energy, information and communication technologies, as well as transboundary waterways.

5. The NEPAD Agency continued to coordinate development of infrastructure across the continent through the implementation of the Programme's Priority Action Plan, which comprises 51 continental and regional projects, including seven projects

that are spearheaded by seven African Heads of State and Government and implemented under the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative.

6. Over the past 12 months, efforts were focused on project preparation and financing for the Programme's Priority Action Plan projects and programmes. Of the 51 projects and programmes, 16 national and regional priority infrastructure projects were identified as quick wins for financing and implementation. These projects were showcased at the Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held on 14 and 15 June in Dakar, with a view to securing financing through innovative synergies between the public and private sector. The Summit adopted the Dakar Agenda for Action in order to prioritize the financing of the 16 priority infrastructure pilot projects and to start feasibility studies and project preparation in order to accelerate the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa.

7. With respect to the implementation of Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative projects, the "Missing link of the trans-Saharan highway" project, covering more than 4,500 kilometres, and linking Algeria and Nigeria, has seen considerable progress, with financing of $40 million having been secured. The implementation process has already commenced and the project is expected to be completed in 2016. The optic fibre component of the project, linking Algeria, Nigeria and the Niger through a submarine cable, has also seen substantial progress with the completion of 60 per cent of the project. Egypt formally launched the "Navigational route between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea" project in June 2013.

8. Despite progress made by African countries in mobilizing funding, lack of financing remains the major obstacle to the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. In this context, AfDB, at its annual meeting held in Kigali, in May 2014, launched the "Africa50 Initiative" to mobilize over $100 billion from public and private sources to finance priority regional infrastructure projects on the continent over the next 50 years. The initiative will target high-impact national and regional projects in energy, transport, information and communications technologies and water.

9. Furthermore, following the launch of the Sustainable Energy for All African Coordination Hub in July 2013, the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Union Commission and AfDB, organized expert meetings that led to the preparation and adoption of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) African Action Plan Guidelines, Africa's Strategy for Decentralized Energy Solutions and the African Sustainable Charcoal Policy Framework. All of these initiatives were approved by the Conference of Energy Ministers in Africa.

B. Agriculture and food security

10. African countries have continued to make progress on several important commitments promoting agricultural development and food security. Within the context of the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, African countries committed themselves to allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and, through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to achieving a 6 per cent growth rate in agricultural productivity per annum. To mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption

of the Programme in 2013 and to focus national attention on Africa's agriculture, African leaders declared 2014 to be the Year of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

11. During the review period, African countries continued to implement the commitments of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. With regard to the Maputo Declaration target of allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture, progress continued with 12 countries reaching or surpassing the target, while 13 others were in the 5 to 10 per cent range. As at December 2013, 45 African countries engaged in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme process, of which 39 signed Programme compacts and 29 finalized their national agriculture investment plans. Some countries, including Botswana, Namibia and South Africa used their national agriculture investment plans to increase financing for social safety net programmes, such as school feeding programmes.

12. The NEPAD Agency spearheaded the formulation of a "results framework" for sustaining momentum on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to enable the continent to draw lessons from the last 10 years of the Programme's implementation. This provided the basis for defining a plan of action for the next 10 years and beyond — underpinned by a resolve to ensure sustainable transformation in the continent's agricultural systems. The Programme's results framework has been designed as an integral part of the forthcoming African Union Agenda 2063 — developing the desired level and rate of agricultural performance in contribution to attaining its goals.

13. To improve food security across the continent, the Africa-led Africa Solidarity Trust Fund was launched in June 2013 with a seed capital of $30 million from Equatorial Guinea and is managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Additional funding from Angola ($10 million) and a group of civil society organizations in the Republic of the Congo has brought the total amount to $40 million.

14. Furthermore, in September 2013, as part of the third call for public sector window proposals the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program approved a total funding of approximately $250 million for eight countries, four of which are African (Burkina Faso, Zambia, Uganda and Mali). This has brought the total number of African countries that have received funding under the Program to 15, with a cumulative total receipt of approximately $870 million.

15. At the global level, the United Nations General Assembly launched the International Year of Family Farming in 2014 to focus its support on small-holder farmers, especially women in Africa by facilitating access to better seeds, fertilizers, markets, finance, and extension services.

C. Health

16. Health remains a key priority for African countries. The NEPAD Agency has been at the forefront of mobilizing funds from bilateral partners to support the training of nurses and midwives across the continent and strengthen African health-care research. Moreover, the African Union has increased its commitment to improving health outcomes by underscoring the importance of increased investment

in health technology and innovation as specified in the forthcoming African Union Agenda 2063.

17. The declaration of the 2013 special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, reaffirmed the commitment of African Governments to accelerate the implementation of existing frameworks, such as the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria in Africa and the Abuja call for accelerated action towards universal access to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria services in Africa by 2010.

18. The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization Programme has made noteworthy progress during the period under review. The Programme aims to improve public health by increasing access to sustainable supplies of safe and effective medicines in Africa, based on the principles contained in the African Union Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Action and the road map for shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response in Africa, from 2012 to 2015.

19. Noteworthy progress has also been made in identifying the impacts of child undernutrition in Africa. The results from the first phase of the initiative on the cost of hunger in Africa were published during the period under review. The preliminary results from the case studies were generated from research conducted in the four first-phase countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland, and Uganda. The report reveals that child mortality related to undernutrition accounts for nearly 1 to 8 per cent of workforce losses in the analysed countries.[1]

20. Research on health systems continues to develop in Africa. The Africa Health Systems Initiative — Support to African Research Partnerships programme supported ten research teams that examined numerous health-related challenges, including quality of care, availability of health personnel, access to mental health services and health information technology. The programme has reached its final year but since its launch in 2008, it has provided substantial support to researchers in African countries.

21. Efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic have intensified through the collaboration of multiple stakeholders. Significant gains have been made in scaling up HIV/AIDS treatment, which has resulted in a reduction in the number of AIDS-related deaths in Africa. However, significant challenges remain. On the continent, only 54 per cent of those eligible for antiretroviral treatment have access, with increasingly fewer children who need HIV treatment accessing it.

D. Education and training

22. African countries are making every effort to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of universal primary education and gender equality in education, including through the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All. Achievements have been made possible through sustainable public investment to increase participation while implementing retention actions (school feeding programmes, cash transfers etc.).

[1] See documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/resources/wfp260859.pdf.

23. Against this background, the NEPAD Agency continued to promote training and educational interventions that strengthen primary health care, including through the establishment of a centre for training and development for teachers in science, mathematics and technology, and a programme on nursing and midwifery education in Africa. The programme is currently being implemented in Cameroon, Gabon and the Congo with the aim of upgrading the skills of nurses and midwives.

24. Continuing progress has been evident in efforts to strengthen clinical human resources development in Africa. During the period under review, the NEPAD Nursing and Midwifery Education in Africa programme and the Government of Cameroon developed a new Master's-level programme for nurses and midwives. The one-year programme established an academic partnership between Stellenbosch University in South Africa and the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon.

25. Progress was also made in the implementation of the Global Education First Initiative, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General with the aim of accelerating progress toward education goals by encouraging Governments to bolster financial and political support for education initiatives. During the period under review, two additional African countries — Benin and Ethiopia — joined the Initiative as champion countries, bringing to five the number of participating African countries out of the total of 14 champion countries.

26. Champion countries collaborate with the Global Education First Initiative secretariat on an annual basis to develop a list of planned activities. The eleventh Education for All Global Monitoring Report highlighted progress made towards reaching the global education framework by 2015 and identified ongoing challenges. According to the report, progress has been slow for many African countries with regard to adult literacy, gender parity, school enrolment and teachers' wages.

27. The continent continues to face challenges, including many children and youth out of school, especially girls and young women, disadvantaged and marginalized rural and nomadic populations, significant regional disparities in higher education and low transition rates to tertiary education.

E. Environment and tourism

28. The NEPAD Agency's activities in the area of environment focused on strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of regional coordination mechanisms such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to facilitate cooperation among countries, enhance synergies, and promote coordinated responses to existing and emerging challenges, capacity needs and specific issues.

29. The NEPAD Agency, through the Ministerial Conference, assisted in promoting a coordinated and regional approach to environmental management, particularly through strengthening the participation of African countries in international policy processes. It also supported the Conference in the development of African common positions in international negotiations, which resulted in Africa increasing its participation and voice in international environmental governance.

30. As a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African

Union have developed concept notes for five regional flagship programmes to enable African countries to promote sustainable development and adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The concept notes, which were reviewed during the Expert Meeting of the Africa Ministerial Conference, convened in April 2013 in the United Republic of Tanzania, will serve as an overall regional framework for the further development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes.

31. In September 2013, the NEPAD Agency facilitated Africa's participation and engagement at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Windhoek, by hosting the Africa pavilion in conjunction with the African Union Commission. This enabled African countries and institutions to showcase their efforts at addressing desertification and land degradation on the continent.

32. In partnership with the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the NEPAD Agency facilitated meetings between the Conference and their counterparts during the high-level segment of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Warsaw, which enabled the African Group to consolidate Africa's common position on the outcomes of the fifth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment that was held in October 2013 in Gaborone. The ministerial meeting also assisted in strengthening the African consensus on the road to post-Kyoto agreements.

33. With regard to tourism, during the period under review, the NEPAD Agency undertook to promote and advocate for the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan at various national and international forums, including with the Government of South Africa at the nineteenth edition of the Tunisian tourism fair "International Tourism Market", held from 24 to 27 April 2013, in Tunis; at the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in Yokohama, Japan, in June 2013; and at the twentieth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, jointly hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe in August 2013.

F. Information and communications technology

34. The NEPAD Agency continued to support African countries in the development of information and communications technology on the continent. During the period under review, actions focused on achieving progress in all four pillars of the NEPAD eAfrica Programme, namely: information and communications technology infrastructure, capacity development, e-applications and services, and enabling environment and governance.

35. During the review period, the design phase of the impact evaluation for the NEPAD eSchools Initiative was conducted with grant from the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation. The e-Africa Programme signed an agreement with First Space Fiber to develop a model framework for e-schools using Senegal as a test case. Under the agreement, First Space Fiber has started to provide a complete solution (hardware, training, content and maintenance) to all six e-schools in Senegal. The piloting in the e-schools will inform wider rollout to other schools in Senegal and will also feed into the wider continental strategy.

36. Progress was also made with regard to the e-Africa Programme. The Programme successfully concluded a study entitled "Strengthening grassroots participation in agricultural and rural development policy processes through information and communications technologies", funded by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation. Findings from the study were disseminated at the Information and Communications Technologies for Agriculture Conference held in Kigali in November 2013 and the recommendations contained therein will inform further work to integrate information and communication technologies in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme processes.

37. In the second half of 2013, the e-Africa Programme, in collaboration with the African Union's Division of Information Society and the dotAfrica Steering Committee, finalized the dotAfrica Reserved Names List Policy. As a result, African countries will be able to protect website names of their national heritages (geographic, cultural, historic etc.) by reserving them through the dotAfrica Reserved Names List portal. Excess funds generated by the dotAfrica registry will go to the dotAfrica Foundation, which will support the development of the Internet and information and communications technology on the African continent.

G. Science, technology and innovation

38. In the review period, the NEPAD Agency continued its work in science and technology through the implementation of its Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, which centres on the three interrelated pillars of capacity-building, knowledge production and technological innovation.

39. The Southern Africa Network for Bioscience was reconfigured to align it more closely with the NEPAD Agency/African Biosciences Initiative Strategy 2016 vision of demonstrating research results and development impacts. In addition, the African Biosafety Network of Expertise developed biosafety administration guidelines for use and adaptation by African Union member States. In order to create an enabling environment, technical support was provided to five countries, namely, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and Togo in the drafting and reviewing of various regulations and guidelines related to biosafety.

40. With respect to capacity-building efforts, the NEPAD Agency organized training to strengthen regulatory capacity for ongoing field and multilocation trial inspections, monitoring, and compliance for regulators in Ghana, Malawi and Nigeria. This resulted in the adoption of best practices for inspectorate functions, strengthened competencies and increased confidence in the regulatory systems of those countries. Technical support was also provided to national systems in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria for the development and implementation of biosafety communications strategies.

41. The African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative of the NEPAD Agency works to improve the quality of science, technology and innovation policies at national, regional and continental levels. More than 150 experts were trained in research, development and innovation, including in methodologies for measurement, data collection and analysis, and linkages between science, technology and innovation indicators, science policies and development. The training strengthened countries' abilities to apply internationally acceptable

standards to the collection of their national science, technology and innovation statistics.

H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation

42. In the past 12 months, African Governments continued to work towards the implementation of important commitments related to gender equality and women's empowerment, including those made in the African Union Gender Policy, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, as well as the priorities of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020). These instruments have galvanized significant action on the part of the NEPAD Agency in the areas of health, human rights, education, economic development, governance and peace and security.

43. During the reporting period, activities undertaken by the Gender Programme focused on continental gender mainstreaming and implementation of the projects approved during the second call for proposals of the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment, the flagship project of the NEPAD gender programme. In addition, the NEPAD gender programme engaged in the validation of the scope and methodology for the design of the new conceptual framework for gender mainstreaming of continental African Union/NEPAD programmes and its four-year action plan.

44. Of the 10 million euros disbursed to the NEPAD/Spanish Fund, 8.4 million were earmarked to fund 32 projects for a period of two years. The thematic sectors covered during the second call for proposals were streamlined to include: (a) economic empowerment; (b) civil society strengthening; and (c) institutional strengthening.

45. During the period under review, several NEPAD gender projects and programmes recorded notable success. The Sudan Peace and Education Programme improved food security and sustained livelihoods of women farmers in Morobo and Magwi counties through seed provision, economic support and capacity-building in modern techniques for subsistence farming and water harvesting, resulting in a 38 per cent increase in agricultural yields in targeted regions.

46. While much success was achieved during the reporting period, much more efforts are needed to address challenges which include lack of capacity of beneficiaries, unforeseen political instabilities in certain countries and difficulties in operationalizing a results-based approach. Overall, there is also need for a Fund dedicated solely to gender mainstreaming in Africa in order to reduce fragmentation of efforts and address the gap in financing for gender equality.

I. African Peer Review Mechanism

47. In 2002, in recognition of the negative impact of poor governance on development, African Heads of State and Government adopted the NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, in which they committed themselves to improving institutions of governance and

promoting the rule of law. As a result, in March 2003, the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee established the African Peer Review Mechanism.

48. During the period under review, the Mechanism continued to strengthen and institutionalize good political, economic and corporate governance throughout the continent. In January 2014, Equatorial Guinea joined the Mechanism, bringing its membership to the following 34 countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

49. In spite of a steady increase in membership, there is slow progress in the conduct of national review exercises, partly due to financial constraints. South Africa and Mozambique submitted their respective progress reports on the implementation of their national programmes of action for review by the African Peer Review Forum during the twentieth summit, held in January 2014. As at June 2014, the following 17 countries have been reviewed: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

50. In the context of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Mechanism in 2013, its governing bodies and its strategic partners, namely UNDP, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and AfDB, organized a series of events to raise awareness of the importance of its work among African citizens and the international community, while reflecting on progress and ongoing challenges. At the global level, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information the African Union, the NEPAD Agency and the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, organized the Africa-NEPAD week: Celebrating APRM @10 on the margins of the General Assembly debate on Africa in October 2013. This contributed to raising awareness at the international community and the African diaspora of Africa's progress in the area of governance through the Mechanism.

51. Ten years on, the Mechanism has established itself as a unique and innovative framework for promoting good governance as well as durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.[2] It has created a platform for African peer learning and sharing of experiences and best practices, in addition to engendering a more open polity and strengthening government-civic engagement. The involvement of civil society and other stakeholders has enriched the content of the national programmes of action.

[2] See the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/69/162).

III. Response of the international community: building on the momentum of the international support for Africa's development

A. Introduction

52. The response of the international community has been mixed. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), although global economic activities increased considerably in the second half of 2013, growth in gross domestic product (GDP) remained relatively unchanged, averaging 3 per cent in 2013, compared to 3.2 per cent in 2012. The United States economy strengthened considerably in 2013. The euro area economies returned to positive growth, albeit small.

53. In this international context, Africa continued to show strong resilience with GDP growth averaging 4 per cent in 2013, 1 per cent faster than the global average. Though the recovery in commodity prices has been important for Africa's recovery from the global economic slowdown, efforts undertaken by African countries to reform their economies, tackle conflicts and strengthen governance have also played an important role in supporting growth. According to the *African Economic Outlook 2014*, the continent's future outlook is promising, with growth expected to return to the pre-crisis level of 6.5 per cent.

54. Despite improved performance, growth in Africa remains inadequate to make significant progress in poverty reduction. More remains to be done to raise growth to the 7 per cent target considered critical for sustained poverty reduction as well as for progress towards the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals targets. Subdued growth performance in advanced economies, especially the anaemic growth in Africa's largest trading partners, coupled with likely slowdown in the emerging economies, may undermine progress towards achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

55. Against this backdrop and in the light of the rapidly approaching deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a strengthened and sustained global partnership will be important for sustaining recent development gains and accelerating progress towards reaching internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Over the years, development partners have made several commitments relating to Africa's development, including implementation of NEPAD priorities. The implementation of those commitments will be critical in supporting African countries to overcome their development challenges and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

56. In recognition of the importance of implementing commitments, the General Assembly, by its resolution 66/293, established a monitoring mechanism to review implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development needs and, subsequently, by its resolution 68/247, to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to enable it to effectively implement its increasing mandates. The mechanism will provide much-needed impetus to the implementation of commitments made in relation to Africa, thus enhancing the developmental impact of international cooperation in favour of Africa. The first interim report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development needs, (A/69/163) will be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in September 2014.

57. The report assesses progress in the implementation of commitments by African countries, traditional development partners and the new and emerging development partners in the four selected themes of agriculture and food security, financing for development, environment and climate change, and governance. The interim report indicates that, while progress has been made in the implementation of commitments by African countries and their development partners, progress remains uneven across both themes and country groupings. The report also points to the existence of major gaps in the implementation of commitments, which undermine the attainment of Africa's sustainable development objectives.

58. The first follow-up ministerial meeting of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development was held in Yaoundé in May 2014 and was coorganized by the Government of Japan, the African Union Commission, the United Nations, represented by the Office of Special Adviser on Africa, UNDP and the World Bank. The meeting assessed progress made in the implementation of the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017 and endorsed the Implementation Matrix of the Action Plan, which contains 617 concrete development initiatives that were collectively submitted by African Member States, African regional institutions and development partners.

59. At the recently concluded Group of 7 (G7) summit held in Brussels, Belgium on 4 and 5 June 2014, the industrialized countries committed to working towards improving transparency of the extractive industry through developing common global standards to ensure disclosure of payments that companies make to Governments. They reaffirmed their commitment to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition under strong African leadership. They also reaffirmed their commitment to end financial secrecy and tax evasion through the rapid implementation of the new single global standard for the automatic exchange of tax information. These measures, if fully implemented, could help African countries to recover lost resources vital for financing the NEPAD agenda.

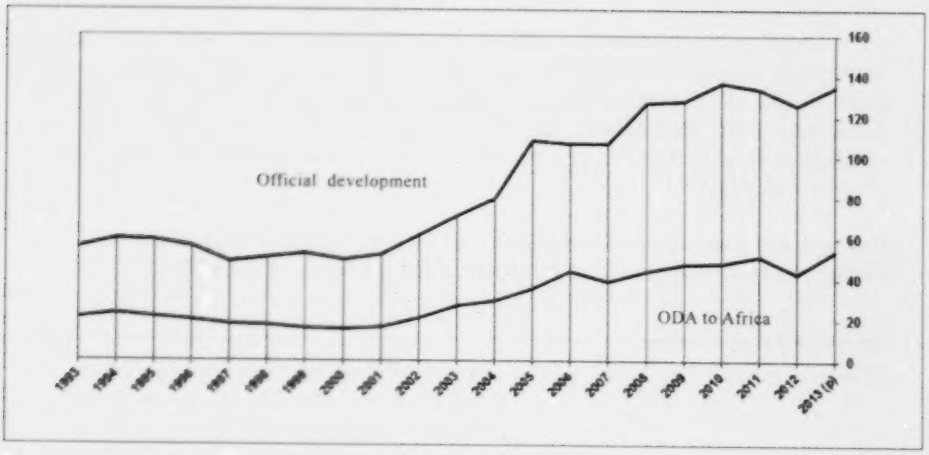
60. At the fourth European Union-Africa Summit convened in Belgium in 2014, African and European countries committed themselves to further strengthening trade and investment ties between the two continents, as well as cooperation on peace and security. The European Union also committed to supporting Africa in preparing climate resilient and low emission development strategies.

61. Following his first visit to Africa in July 2013, where he unveiled the "Power Africa" and "Trade Africa" initiatives, President Obama convened the first United States-Africa Leaders' Summit on 5 and 6 August 2014 in Washington, D.C. The Summit sought to strengthen United States-Africa relations, especially in the areas of trade and investment.

B. Official development assistance

62. According to preliminary OECD data (see figure below), total net official development assistance (ODA) from Development Assistance Committee countries totalled $134.8 billion in 2013, up from $125.9 billion in 2012, representing an increase of nearly 6.1 per cent. ODA flows to Africa increased from some $51.5 billion in 2012 to $54.1 billion in 2013, representing an increase of 5 per cent.

Total official development assistance from all donors



Source: OECD/Development Assistance Committee online database, 2014.

63. Although Africa as a region receives a larger share of Development Assistance Committee ODA, that share has remained relatively constant, averaging around 38 per cent in 2013 This is at variance with the stated commitment to prioritize Africa in aid allocation. Furthermore, in recent years there has been a noticeable shift in aid allocation towards middle-income developing countries.

64. In 2005, at the Group of Eight (G8) Summit held at Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, leaders set the ambitious goal to add nearly $25 billion per year to aid for Africa, doubling the levels of ODA by 2010 relative to 2004 levels. They have consistently fallen short of this goal. Preliminary data show that aid volume to Africa averaged about $47 billion in the past three years, approximately $15 billion below the 2010 level implied by the G8 commitments made at Gleneagles in 2005 (see A/69/163).

65. In the light of the inadequate aid levels to Africa relative to what is required to close the huge financing gap, the implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda assumes greater importance. The first report[3] of the global monitoring framework was released in May 2014. Measuring progress on the implementation of commitments agreed upon at the fourth high-level forum on aid effectiveness held at Busan, Republic of Korea in 2011, the report indicated sustained progress in aid untying, more open and transparent information about aid flows, and efforts by development partners to track how particular groups — such as women and girls — were faring in terms of resource allocation. According to the report, the percentage of aid budgets subject to parliamentary scrutiny increased from 57 per cent in 2010 to 64 in 2013. Some African countries, such as Cape Verde, Kenya, Lesotho and Mozambique, made substantial progress, all reaching the minimum target of 85 per cent of their scheduled development cooperation within their national budgets.

[3] World Trade Organization, Bali Ministerial declaration and decisions. Available at https://mc9.wto.org/official-documents-bali-ministerial.

C. Debt relief

66. While the international community has committed itself to helping to address the debt problems of developing countries in Africa, very little progress has been made during the reporting period. Through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, the status of African countries has remained unchanged in the post-completion phase, the interim phase and the pre-decision phase.

Current and potential beneficiaries of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (as at June 2014)

Status	*Countries*
29 post-completion point countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
1 interim country (between decision and completion point)	Chad
3 pre-decision-point countries	Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan

Source: International Monetary Fund.

67. Based on the table above, 29 African countries are still in the post-completion point as at June 2014, and continue to receive full debt relief. Chad still remains the only country in the interim phase of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and no additional debt relief has been granted during the reporting period. The World Bank, however, reported that Chad had made some progress against the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative completion-point triggers and on the achievement of several social-indicator targets. Three countries, namely, Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan, have remained at the pre-decision phase. The World Bank, however, reported that Eritrea has made limited progress and there has been no discussion of an IMF supported programme since the last Article IV consultation in 2009. Somalia has, however, been reinitiated as an active member of IMF and the World Bank, although it remains ineligible for financial assistance due to protracted arrears. The Sudan, also in the pre-decision point, will embark on a new debt reconciliation exercise to ensure that data is fully available once the country gets closer to meeting decision-point requirements.

68. With respect to debt sustainability, an analysis carried out by IMF and the World Bank shows that most African countries are at low risk of debt distress, while around 40 per cent are at moderate risk and about one fifth of them are at high risk. However, some African countries, such as Ghana and Zambia, have undertaken

excessive fiscal expansions in recent years financed by external borrowing and, as a result have seen their debt ratios increased.

D. Foreign direct investment and other private flows

69. During the review period, foreign direct investment (FDI) to Africa was resilient and steadily increased to the levels of ODA. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, FDI flows to Africa increased from $50 billion in 2012 to an estimated $56.3 billion in 2013. As in the previous year, FDI flows to Africa continued to be concentrated in the extractive sectors, although services and manufacturing, including the automotive sector, leather and pharmaceuticals, represented an increased share in total FDI.

70. The increase in FDI inflows was driven by the strong performance of southern African countries, such as South Africa and Mozambique, which registered record FDI inflows of $10 billion and $7 billion, respectively. The other subregions experienced a decrease in their inflows. For instance, persistent political and social tensions continued to subdue flows to North Africa, where only Morocco registered solid growth of 24 per cent, to $3.5 billion.

71. FDI is increasingly contributing to Africa's development finance landscape and can be instrumental in developing productive capacities and removing infrastructure bottlenecks. In this regard, African countries have continued their efforts towards attracting FDI through the implementation of reforms to enhance Africa's attractiveness to foreign investors. African countries have steadily improved their positions on the World Bank's annual Ease of Doing Business rankings, with four African countries featuring among the world's top 10 reformers in 2013. Recognizing the important role of investment in Africa's development and in response to General Assembly resolution 68/294, the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, with substantive support from the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, convened on 17 July 2014 a high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly on the promotion of investment in Africa and its catalytic role in achieving Africa's development objectives. The meeting recognized the importance of promoting local and foreign investment to finance Africa's development priorities, including the Millennium Development Goals, the forthcoming post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Member States stressed the need to attract investment to support productive capacity development, especially in infrastructure, manufactures and agriculture.

E. Trade

72. The international community has also pledged to promote trade initiatives, including aid for trade, in order to address supply-side constraints that limit Africa's trade capacity. African Governments have also made commitments to strengthen regional integration and intra-African trade.

73. During the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, Ministers adopted the "Bali Package", the first multilateral trade agreement approved by WTO. The package, which consists of 10 separate decisions,[3] covers the areas of trade facilitation, development and least developed country issues, agriculture and cotton.

74. Specifically, the trade facilitation agreement contains commitments aimed at reducing trade transaction costs, increasing transparency and better harmonizing customs formalities. This could provide greater incentive to increase trade and reduce tariffs. This could benefit Africa, given the high cost of trading. For example, an analysis of comprehensive trade costs reveals that disproportionately high transaction costs hamper not only Africa's trade with the rest of the world, but also viable regional integration, particularly across Regional Economic Communities.

75. Following the Fourth Global Review of the Aid for Trade Initiative, held in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2013, aid for trade flows have rebounded with Africa as the largest beneficiary. Aid for trade resources committed to Africa increased from $13.1 billion in 2011 to $21.3 billion in 2012, representing an increase of 55 per cent over 2011. Africa's share of aid for trade was 30 per cent during 2002-05 but rose to 40 per cent in 2012.

F. South-South cooperation

76. South-South cooperation, under the principle of solidarity and mutual benefits, continued to provide support to Africa's growth and sustainable development as a complement to North-South cooperation. During the review period, African strategic partnerships with key emerging economies continued to make progress, particularly through meetings, trade, ODA, FDI and institution-building.

77. At the international level, the organization of the Global South-South Development Expo held in Nairobi in November 2013 provided a platform for showcasing successful southern-grown development solutions for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As a result, $450 million was pledged between investors, green businesses, Governments and other stakeholders, covering projects ranging from building organic fertilizer factories and clean energy projects in Kenya to solar power plants in Uganda and green businesses for women in Egypt. In addition, in June 2014, the Group of 77 and China convened a summit in Santa Cruz, Plurinational State of Bolivia, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Group in June 1964. The commemorative declaration stressed the importance of cooperation and partnerships to reduce inequality, end poverty and fight climate change, all with the aim to create a new sustainable development framework.

78. Following the adoption of the eThekwini Declaration and Action Plan, cooperation among Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa, was given a major impetus with the establishment of two financial institutions: a development bank with $50 billion and a currency reserve pool of $100 billion. The Fund will enable countries to address any developments on the foreign exchange market.

79. Over the past year, Africa has enhanced its cooperation with China in key areas such as trade, FDI and aid. In 2013, Chinese-African trade surpassed the $200 billion mark for the first time. In May 2014, China reaffirmed its commitment to Africa's development, including construction of the China-Africa Development Bank, headquartered in Nairobi, with a capital allocation of $2.5 billion.

80. Africa also deepened its cooperation with other key partners of the global South, such as Brazil. In March 2014, Brazil, in collaboration with the World Bank,

organized the fifth South-South Learning Forum to promote the exchange of knowledge among practitioners from low-income and middle-income countries on ways to improve the design of social protection and labour systems at the policy, programme and service delivery levels.

81. Africa's cooperation with India also continued to grow. Indian investment in Africa has surged, with major investments in information and communications technology, energy, engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and automobiles sectors. Similarly, cooperation with the countries of the Gulf also strengthened. The third Africa-Arab Summit, held in Kuwait City in November 2013, enhanced cooperation between African and Arab States. At that summit, Kuwait committed to granting $1 billion in concessionary loans to African countries over the next five years, including funding for investment and insurance guarantee.

G. Millennium Village Project

82. The Millennium Village Project continued to help ten countries to reduce extreme poverty and hunger, improve education, health and gender equality. During the review period, progress was made in reducing child hunger, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, and providing access to safe drinking water. For example, the Project's Community Health Worker programme has been strengthened by newer and better eHealth systems. The Millennium Village Project contributed to the adoption of strategies for improving the system to ensure quality care, delivery of life-saving health interventions and provision of a critical link between health centres and families in rural areas.

83. Building on progress to date, the Project's strategic priorities moving forward are to focus on areas where progress is lagging, while starting the transition of project interventions to the local level ahead of a complete handover in one year. In an effort to consolidate lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the envisaged Millennium Village Project's impact evaluation exercise and its findings will be a good input for Member States as they finalize the post-2015 development framework.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations system

A. General

84. The United Nations system is one of the main pillars of international support for the implementation of NEPAD. Support by its entities at the regional, subregional and national levels takes various forms, ranging from technical assistance, capacity-building and funding to advocacy and normative work. The most recent report by the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2014/3) contains detailed information on the nature and scope of the support provided during the past year.

B. Strengthening of the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union, its New Partnership for Africa's Development and the cluster system

85. During the reporting period, the United Nations system strengthened the regional coordination mechanism for Africa in support of the implementation of NEPAD and the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme of the African Union. All nine thematic clusters of the mechanism developed demand-driven business plans and work programmes based on the key priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. The mechanism has proved useful in coordinating United Nations system inputs at the regional level, as well as support for Africa's development in important regional and global processes.

86. The cluster system enhanced the level and quality of its cooperation through improved information-sharing, increased intracluster activities and frequent cluster meetings. The mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues within the clusters, particularly gender and youth issues, was also enhanced significantly.

87. At the fourteenth session of the mechanism, held in November 2013, it was decided to hold future sessions back-to-back with the joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, in order to provide a platform for the United Nations leadership to engage directly and with African Ministers, gain broader perspectives on Africa's development aspirations and generate momentum for the mechanism's activities by raising the level of participation.

88. The fifteenth session of the mechanism, held in March 2014 in Abuja, highlighted the need for all clusters of the mechanism to be aligned with the strategic vision of the African Union and NEPAD strategic plans for 2014-2017 and the forthcoming Agenda 2063. In view of the 2016 expiration of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency, regional economic commissions, AfDB and the United Nations were called upon to establish a technical working group to formulate a comprehensive and long-term successor programme of United Nations support to the African Union.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

89. **African countries continued to make progress in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. In the decade since its establishment, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme has served as an important framework for agriculture development and has helped to place the sector at the centre of development. African countries have also intensified efforts to accelerate infrastructure development. Important national and regional infrastructure projects in transport, water, energy and information and communications technologies are being rolled out across the continent, primarily funded through domestic resource mobilization. Progress has also been evident in the implementation of other NEPAD priority sectors, including health, education and gender mainstreaming. An increasing number of**

countries are attaching great importance to good governance, as evidenced by the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

90. On the international front, ODA to Africa increased, reversing the downward trend of the past two years. FDI flows continued their upward trend, despite global economic uncertainty. With respect to trade, despite progress made at the last WTO Ministerial Summits on trade facilitation and least developed country issues, progress on the long-simmering issue of agricultural subsidies remains elusive. Furthermore, the conclusion of the Doha Round of Trade negotiations remains stalled. All of these factors risk derailing recent development gains, including progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The consideration of the recommendations set out below will be important in this regard.

91. Agriculture holds the key to Africa's transformation. In view of the decision by the African Union Summit to declare 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, African countries should further prioritize agriculture in their national budgets, in line with the Maputo Declaration. In support of these efforts, Africa's development partners should make every effort to increase financing for Africa's agriculture in line with relevant commitments, including those contained in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative.

92. Development of infrastructure will be key to unleashing Africa's growth potential. While progress has been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, lack of financing remains a serious challenge. There is need to leverage private sector participation in infrastructure through innovative public-private partnerships as underscored by the Dakar Agenda for Action. Africa's development partners should support Africa's infrastructure development by honouring their commitments and encouraging their private sectors to participate in infrastructure projects in Africa.

93. Gender equality and women's empowerment can accelerate development outcomes by increasing women's access to and control over resources, and generate broader productivity gains, improve women and girls' status and many other development outcomes. Therefore, gender and women's empowerment issues must be mainstreamed into national development policy frameworks in order to undergird efforts towards gender equality.

94. While encouraging progress was made at the Ninth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference held in Bali, Indonesia on important issues such as trade facilitation, agriculture and least developed country development, superior trade benefits can be realized only through the conclusion of the Doha Round. In this regard, Member States should seize the momentum created at Bali and forge ahead to conclude the round while simultaneously focusing on the implementation of the Bali agreement. In particular, increased aid for trade will be needed to support Africa's implementation of the trade facilitation agreement.

95. International support will be indispensable in supporting Africa's achievement of sustainable development. In this regard, Africa's development partners should make efforts to deliver on their pledges to Africa, especially through increased ODA, technology transfer and FDI, including investment in

infrastructure and other NEPAD priority sectors. For their part, African countries should leverage ODA so as to attract the private investment that is necessary to implement the continent's priorities that have been articulated in its transformative agenda.

96. Translating Africa's impressive growth into sustained social development and poverty reduction requires bold and targeted public policy measures to diversify the economy and encourage value addition, which will be important for employment creation. Given the fact that industrialization constitutes a core pillar of Africa's transformative agenda, there is need for the international community to align its support to Africa's emerging priorities and reorient aid allocation accordingly.

97. With 2015 rapidly approaching, efforts must be intensified to accelerate progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, the only region that is off track in meeting most of the goals. In view of the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda, particular consideration should be given to Africa's development priorities as articulated in the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda, the outcome document of the Africa Regional Consultation on the Sustainable Development Goals, the solemn declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/ African Union and the forthcoming Agenda 2063. Africa's special needs must also be given due consideration with regard to means of implementation, including financing, capacity development, trade, South-South cooperation and technology transfer.

United Nations A/69/162–S/2014/542

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Item 63 of the provisional agenda*
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/278, which was adopted following consideration by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session of my report (A/68/220-S/2013/475) reviewing the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

The report highlights major developments with regard to peace, security and development in Africa over the last 12 months. It also examines the implementation by the United Nations system of key priority areas identified in the review report, namely, on strengthening institutional cooperation with the African Union and its regional economic communities, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and conflict management, post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian affairs, rule of law and administration of justice, and support for security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

* A/69/150.

14-58436 (E) 110814

Please recycle

Pursuant to the mandate outlined in General Assembly resolution 68/278 to develop policy proposals on persistent and emerging challenges and on the approach and support of the United Nations system, the report provides an in-depth analysis of the transformative agenda of the African Union to achieve a conflict-free Africa, as outlined in the Organization of African Unity/African Union Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration and Agenda 2063, the forthcoming ambitious 50-year plan of the African Union. This agenda reflects a political commitment to progressively and concretely address persistent and emerging challenges to peace and security in Africa, while simultaneously ensuring stable and enduring conditions for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Concerted action by African countries, regional institutions, the private sector, civil society, and sustained and strategic partnerships with the international community, including the United Nations, will be critical in realizing this agenda.

I. Introduction

1. In response to a request from the Security Council in 1998, the Secretary-General undertook a comprehensive analysis of the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The report proposed specific measures aimed at reducing conflict, building durable peace and promoting sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

2. Subsequent to that report, in 2009, in its resolution 63/304, the General Assembly requested me to submit a report reviewing the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report.

3. A comprehensive review was undertaken, including broad-based consultations with Member States, the African Union and African regional economic communities, civil society organizations and the United Nations system through the interdepartmental task force on African affairs convened by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. The report on the review (A/65/152-S/2010/526) outlined progress made, persistent obstacles and new and emerging challenges facing Africa. It also set out concrete recommendations and proposals for renewed United Nations engagement with Africa.

4. Pursuant to the requests of the General Assembly, outlined in its successive resolutions on the subject, I continue to submit, on an annual basis, a report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, focusing, among other things, on pressing issues and innovative solutions in the continent. The present report focuses on the transformative agenda of the African Union to achieve a conflict-free Africa, as set forth by the African Union Heads of State and Government in their Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration. The agenda is intended to be an integral part of Agenda 2063, the forthcoming 50-year transformative development agenda of the African Union. In the interim, it is also aligned with the overall vision of both the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Strategic Plans for the period 2014-2017.

II. The year in review

5. Since my last report, and as highlighted in my report on NEPAD (A/69/161), Africa has further expounded on its vision of an African renaissance and of a continent on the rise. African countries have made tangible progress in reforming their economies, boosting economic growth, improving governance and respect for the rule of law, and managing and resolving conflicts. In Madagascar, Guinea-Bissau and Egypt, transition processes were concluded with the successful conduct of elections, the restoration of constitutional order and the reinstatement of these countries into the activities of the African Union. Progress was also made to end the rebellion by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to implement the regional cooperation initiative for the elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

6. While these positive trends have created a favourable climate for investment and a new spirit of optimism about Africa's prospects, there have also been some reversals. In the Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan, renewed hostilities and threats from growing acts of terrorism, violent

extremism and transnational organized crime have resulted in challenges to both peace and development. The United Nations continued to work closely with the African Union and its regional economic communities to support their regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution in addressing these problems.

7. The Security Council, after consultations with the transitional authorities in the Central African Republic, led by interim President Catherine Samba-Panza, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), adopted resolution 2149 (2014), establishing the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The resolution further mandates the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to MINUSCA on 15 September 2014.

8. The United Nations, through MINUSCA, will support the transitional authorities to implement the transitional process, including through efforts to extend State authority and preserve territorial integrity. MINUSCA is also mandated to protect civilians, promote and protect human rights, provide humanitarian assistance, support national and international justice, the rule of law and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation. Coordination of efforts with the African Union, ECCAS, the European Union mission to the Central African Republic, the French forces and the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, will be critical for the success of the mission.

9. Since the outbreak of violence in South Sudan in December 2013, the political, security, humanitarian and human rights situation has deteriorated, in spite of multiple signed agreements on the resolution of the crisis. The United Nations, the African Union and Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have been involved in the mediation process and continue to facilitate political dialogue aimed at finding lasting solutions to the crisis. In March 2014, IGAD decided to deploy a regional force to South Sudan. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2155 (2014), the United Nations, through the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), will continue to assist the IGAD ceasefire monitoring operations in South Sudan.

10. South Sudan and the Sudan made progress in implementing the road map that was adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council in April 2012 and endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 2046 (2012), outlining the steps to defuse the tension between the two countries. However, the African Union team of experts, mandated to provide a non-binding opinion on the status of the five disputed border areas and the work of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, made little progress. My Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan will continue to work closely with the two countries, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and the United Nations missions in the region towards the full implementation of the cooperation agreements.

11. The recurring cycle of inter-communal violence in Darfur has resulted in deaths and further displacement of the civilian population. The African Union/United Nations Joint Special Representative and Chief Mediator for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) continues to work closely on the peace process with facilitators of the Darfur-based Internal Dialogue and Consultations, notably the African Union, UNAMID, the State of

Qatar and the Implementation Follow-up Commission of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

12. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the rebellion by M23 officially ended with the signing of the Nairobi Declaration with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 2013. The United Nations continues to work closely with the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to implement the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region.

13. Pursuant to the framework agreement and the conclusions of the Kampala dialogue, the Congolese Government passed the amnesty law covering acts of war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is an important step that will advance the peace consolidation process. In addition, the Governments of the region, the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the team of Special Envoys in the region launched the Great Lakes Women's Platform, the forum on private investment to support the implementation of the framework agreement, and the forum of hope for youths of the countries of the region. These efforts strengthen implementation of the cooperation framework and solidify the nexus between development, peace and security.

14. In Libya, the political and security situation continues to deteriorate. The United Nations, through the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) remains engaged in providing support to the authorities, including for the holding of parliamentary elections on 25 June and to facilitate a Libyan-led political dialogue aimed at forging an agreement by political actors and armed groups on the future of the transition. However, deep political polarization alongside increasingly violent clashes between the main armed groups continues to undermine the fledgling political transition process.

15. Developments in Somalia demonstrate the value of the strategic partnership between the Government, the African Union and the United Nations. Despite challenges, the country continues to make progress towards reconciliation and peace consolidation. The Federal Government of Somalia convened a "Vision 2016" Conference in September 2013, and has started legislative work to appoint the commissions that will lead the constitutional review, the delineation of boundaries and the preparation for elections in 2016. However, Al-Shabaab continues to pose significant threats to the peace, security and development of Somalia and the region. I have strongly condemned their activities, including the 8 July 2014 attacks on the presidential palace, and stated that continued international support is required to combat terrorism in the country and region.

16. In addition, the Federal Government of Somalia needs financial and capacity-building support to enable it to deliver security and social services, build capable public institutions and boost the economy. The international community had in 2013 pledged $2.4 billion as part of the New Deal Compact to promote peace and State-building efforts. However, despite commitments, financial support to Somalia has been especially low. Some donors have further announced a decrease in their contributions, and the trend is likely to continue into 2015. It is important that the international community remains fully committed to supporting the peace consolidation efforts of Somalia.

17. In West Africa, growing acts of terrorism and transnational organized crime in northern Mali and north-east Nigeria continue to exacerbate insecurity, gross violations of human rights and disregard for international humanitarian law. With the support of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the international community, including the United Nations, the Government of Mali continues to implement the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014, stabilize the country, strengthen democratic processes and institutions, and combat terrorism and transnational organized crime.

18. At the regional level, neighbouring countries have also enhanced cooperation to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger created the Group of Five Sahel Nouakchott framework to intensify their security cooperation and operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel-Sahara region. In support of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched its strategy for the Sahel for the period 2013-2017, which seeks to foster cooperation with neighbouring countries in North and West Africa on criminal justice, in order to combat illicit trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and corruption.

19. Following the deteriorating security situation in Nigeria, arising from the frequent and lethal attacks by Boko Haram, the United Nations strengthened its support to the Government of Nigeria, providing an integrated support package that includes immediate support for affected families and communities, as well as for the abducted Chibok girls, upon their rescue, release or escape. The package includes psychosocial counselling and reintegration support for the girls and emergency needs and early recovery support, to help in tackling some of the long-term national structural challenges.

20. In May 2014, the Security Council Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee decided to include Boko Haram on its sanctions list. In my report on children and armed conflict (A/68/878-S/2014/339) of May 2014, I also included Boko Haram as a new party on the list of parties that recruit or use children, kill or maim children, commit rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, or engage in attacks on schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict not on the agenda of the Security Council, or in other situations. Going forward, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), my Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict will work with relevant stakeholders to establish the monitoring and reporting mechanism on violations undertaken by Boko Haram. In general, as the country prepares for elections in 2015, concerted political action is required to deal with growing security concerns. My High-level Representative to Nigeria will continue to lead the efforts of the United Nations in supporting the country's own efforts to restore security, promote human rights and address the humanitarian situation in the north-east.

21. Other important developments relate to the successful conduct of elections in Algeria, Malawi, Mauritania, Somalia's Puntland and South Africa. An additional 8 African countries are scheduled to hold elections before the end of 2014 and 11 more in 2015. Given the proclivity of elections to act as triggers of conflict, and building on the recommendations in my previous report to the General Assembly on election-triggered conflict (A/68/220-S/2013/475), I encourage all actors, particularly at national levels, to create conducive conditions for inclusive, free,

credible and peaceful elections. The United Nations will continue to work closely with the African Union and the regional economic communities to provide support to countries undergoing elections, before, during and after the polls.

22. The African Peer Review Mechanism can provide useful lessons learned and best practices on how to successfully manage elections. On this note, I welcome the accession of Equatorial Guinea to the Mechanism. I also congratulate South Africa and Mozambique for their respective progress reports on the implementation of their national programmes of action. Meanwhile, the Mechanism still requires substantial financial and capacity-building support to advance its activities. The international community should continue to support this important voluntary mechanism.

23. Given the strong links between natural resources, conflict and fragility in Africa, concerted efforts were made by the African Union, in collaboration with the United Nations, to advance Africa's transformative agenda for sustainable natural resource management. The agenda aims to promote economic transformation through commodity-based industrialization and to address poverty, inequality and youth unemployment.

III. Enhanced focus on the nexus between peace, security and development

24. In my review report (A/65/152-S/2010/526), I underscored the importance of linking economic growth and socioeconomic development with peace, security, stability, governance, rule of law and human rights. Rapid socioeconomic transformation, the current priority of the African Union, can be achieved faster under a peaceful, secure and stable environment. Likewise, durable peace and security are enabled by inclusive and sustained socioeconomic development.

25. In demonstrating my commitment to operationalizing this nexus, I undertook two joint visits, with the President of the World Bank, to the Great Lakes and Sahel regions in Africa in May and November 2013, respectively. Our message was that peace and development must go hand-in-hand. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the African Development Bank, my Special Envoy for the Sahel and the Commissioner for Development of the European Union joined us in our visit to the Sahel region. The visits catalysed the mobilization of resources for peace, stability and development initiatives in both regions.

26. In the Great Lakes region, the World Bank committed $1 billion to provide better health and education services, generate more cross-border trade and fund hydroelectricity projects in support of the framework agreement for peace, security and cooperation. In the Sahel region, a contribution of $8.25 billion was made towards boosting economic growth and eradicating poverty, through projects that would support peace and security efforts.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations in the review report

27. The present section provides an overview of the implementation by the United Nations system of key priority areas for Africa's peace and security agenda identified in my review report.

A. Institutional cooperation

28. Within the framework of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, the United Nations and the African Union continued to enhance their institutional cooperation on 10 thematic clusters, including peace and security and governance. In 2013, both organizations undertook the second triennial review of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union and presented its report to the fifteenth session of the Mechanism, which was held in Abuja in March 2014.

29. The outcome document of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa meeting called for greater engagements with the regional economic communities, especially in formulating a comprehensive long-term United Nations programme of support to the African Union as a successor to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union upon its expiration in 2016. It also called for greater coherence and coordination of United Nations system support to Africa and underlined the role of the interdepartmental task force on African affairs in enabling the organization to deliver as one.

30. In addition, a joint review of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa was undertaken to better align it with both the African Union Commission and NEPAD Strategic Plans for 2014-2017 and the African Union Agenda 2063. A key decision was taken to hold the Mechanism meetings on the margins of the joint annual meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, so as to enable high-level engagements of senior officials.

31. On peace and security, both organizations continued to enhance their cooperation on different components of the African Peace and Security Architecture, including on early warning, preventive diplomacy, mediation, electoral assistance, peacekeeping and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. Consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements, the United Nations Security Council and Peace and Security Council of the African Union continued to strengthen their partnership in conflict prevention, resolution, management and peacekeeping. In June 2014, they held their eighth joint consultative meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and, among other things, observed the tenth anniversary of the African Union Peace and Security Council, while agreeing to further elaborate ways of strengthening their relations.

B. Conflict prevention, peacekeeping and conflict management

32. On conflict prevention, the United Nations maintained a determined and cohesive international engagement with the African Union, SADC, donors and local stakeholders like the Independent National Electoral Commission by deploying its high-level good offices in Madagascar to prevent conflict and ensure the conduct of peaceful elections. As part of their conflict prevention strategies, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the African Union and ECOWAS organized the fifth Africa regional platform and third ministerial meeting on disaster risk

reduction in May 2014 in Nigeria. The meeting called for integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as means to prevent conflict.

33. In peacekeeping, there was growing cooperation between the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army. Their joint military operations resulted in the recovery of more towns from Al-Shabaab control. Support to the Somali security forces increased, including through a United Nations trust fund, assisted delivery of a non-lethal package to the Somali National Army forces fighting alongside AMISOM. This was authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2124 (2013), which also extended the mandate of AMISOM for an additional year and increased the troop level to 22,126.

34. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Forces armées de la Republique démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), including its intervention brigade, continue to intensify their joint operations to oust destabilizing armed groups such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and LRA.

35. Recent global considerations and decisions on United Nations peacekeeping were also pertinent for Africa. Drawing on the experiences with the MONUSCO intervention brigade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Security Council convened an open debate in June 2014 on new trends in United Nations peacekeeping that deliberated on the boundaries of traditional peacekeeping through peace enforcement. The General Assembly, in June 2014, adopted resolution 68/281 on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, manifesting the recognition by Member States of the importance of peacekeeping in addressing conflicts. These are welcome developments for Africa, where more than two thirds of all United Nations military, police and civilian personnel operate. As the continent is increasingly contributing to United Nations peacekeeping and seeks to further strengthen its peacekeeping capacity, including through the operationalization of both its African Standby Force and its rapid deployment capability, these global debates and decisions are particularly relevant for Africa.

C. Post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery

36. United Nations Peacebuilding Fund support to 15 African countries during the review period amounted to about $50 million. As stated in its May 2014 review report,[1] roughly 60 per cent of its annual allocations were made in support of the six countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission: Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The remaining funds supported important peacebuilding initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Niger.

37. In the Central African Republic, the Peacebuilding Fund facilitated rapid response to the crisis by providing financial assistance to enable the rehabilitation of police and gendarmerie facilities in Bangui, facilitating the urgent deployment of human rights monitors in support of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), and reinforcing the transitional

[1] The report is available at www.unpbf.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Report-May-UN-PBF.pdf.

authorities by paying salaries of the police and gendarmerie for a limited period of four months in 2014.

38. In the light of significant advances in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) drew down in March 2014 and transferred its residual activities to the Government and the United Nations country team. UNIPSIL successes underscore the importance of national ownership and leadership, inclusive political dialogue, coordination and sustained resources for efforts to bring about peace, stability and development. In July 2014, the Peacebuilding Fund approved additional funding for peace consolidation in post-transition Sierra Leone. This included $525,000 for consolidated human rights support activities in partnership with the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and $1,525,000 to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for developing national mechanisms and capacities for peace consolidation and conflict prevention in Sierra Leone.

39. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also continued to support countries in fragile situations with an approach that emphasized the need for proper assessment of the political and institutional environment and the design of economic strategies that are gradual, flexible and tailored to the country's capacity constraints. IMF provides assistance both financially and through policy advice and technical assistance, including through the Rapid Credit Facility that provides immediate financing support. The Central African Republic, Madagascar and Mali received support through the Rapid Credit Facility. IMF also supported capacity-building in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda in natural resource revenue management, tax administration, public financial management, banking and monetary issues and macroeconomic statistics.

D. Human rights and humanitarian affairs

40. In line with the "Rights up front" initiative, which I launched in December 2013, United Nations system entities continued to take concrete actions to integrate human rights into their strategies and operational activities. With the support of UNDP, in May 2014, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted the Guidelines on the Use and Conditions of Police Custody and Pre-trial Detention in Africa, which set the continental agenda for acceptable pretrial justice practice. The Commission also adopted a four-year strategic plan (2014-2017), which will be aligned with the forthcoming African Union Agenda 2063.

41. OHCHR continued to provide secretariat support to the International Commission of Inquiry for the Central African Republic and technical assistance to the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan. In line with the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement, OHCHR will engage the Malian authorities on modalities for establishing an international commission of inquiry to investigate the incidents in Kidal, if the authorities decide to go forward with this. On 27 June 2014, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution establishing an international commission of inquiry, for a period of one year, to investigate all alleged violations of human rights in Eritrea.

42. A recent UNMISS report, "Conflict in South Sudan: A Human Rights Report",[2] revealed that there are reasonable grounds to believe that all parties to the conflict have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. The interim report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, submitted to the African Union Assembly in June 2014, further highlighted allegations of sexual and gender-based violence. In response, UNMISS has intensified its work on human rights monitoring and reporting and the protection of civilians. Similarly, in response to developments on the ground, UNAMID increased efforts to protect civilians and promote human rights in Darfur. UNDP strengthened national capacities to investigate and prosecute international crimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including crimes related to sexual and other forms of gender-based violence.

43. On the humanitarian front, food security in South Sudan deteriorated at an alarming rate and resulted in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) expanding its humanitarian action to support 3.3 million conflict-affected people with emergency livelihood support. In Somalia, humanitarian needs remained acute as financial support has been especially low, with only 19 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded. In addition, there are re-emerging signs of drought. Consequently in June 2014, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued an appeal for $60 million to address urgent food, nutrition and health-care needs for the next three months.

44. In the Sahel region, the number of food insecure people is expected to increase from 20 million to 24 million by the end of July 2014, owing to a combination of both acute and chronic factors such as climate change, conflict and population growth. An increase in the caseload of food insecure people is expected to take place in northern Cameroon, Mali, Senegal and Northern Nigeria for the first time. The regional strategic response plan for the Sahel of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that was launched in February 2014 is responding to this situation through life-saving activities.

E. Rule of law and the administration of justice

45. During the review period, the United Nations continued to shape global debates on the rule of law. In February 2014, the Security Council held an open debate on the rule of law to deliberate on my report on measuring the effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system for the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations (S/2013/341). Among other things, the report outlined that the United Nations, through the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has provided wide-ranging assistance to Governments, from constitution-making to strengthening police, justice and corrections institutions, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali. In June 2014, the General Assembly held a high-level event on the contributions of human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda.

[2] The report is available at http://unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5805&language=en-us.

46. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations provided support for the restoration of State authority through projects aimed at strengthening the judiciary, the security sector and penitentiary institutions, and improving access to justice for victims of sexual violence in South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri. The United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) supported the Ministry of Justice in developing a strategic plan to fight corruption in the justice sector and improve equal access to justice.

47. Under its regional programme for Arab States, 2011-2015, UNODC continued to support countries in North Africa, notably Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, to improve their criminal justice systems in order to strengthen the rule of law. Similar support is being provided to Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia under the auspices of the regional programme for eastern Africa, 2009-2015.

48. The United Nations Democracy Fund continued to support civil society engagement for good governance and the rule of law. Recent projects of the Fund have included collaborative efforts by judges and community workers to promote access to justice in Malawi, support local peace structures to prevent community-based conflicts in Sierra Leone, support for local governance in mining zones of Guinea and support for civil society participation in local governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

F. Economic growth and sustainable development

49. In the last 12 months, the African Union developed its Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and framed its priorities for the sustainable development goals. These processes were extensively supported by various United Nations system entities, in close collaboration with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency and the regional economic communities. For instance, ECA, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and UNDP supported the efforts of the African Union Commission to influence acceleration of Millennium Development Goals implementation as the foundation of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. ECA, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and other partners also organized the African ministerial consultative meeting on the sustainable development goals, providing a platform for African countries to identify, articulate and reach consensus on regional development priorities. In line with General Assembly resolution 67/294, the United Nations will continue to give due attention to Africa's priorities, including the NEPAD priorities, in the last phase of our formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

50. The Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the first Economic and Social Council integration segment on sustainable urbanization, including a panel event on the theme "Sustainable urbanization in Africa", in May 2014, to raise awareness about and advocate for Africa's sustainable development priorities. On the Africa Industrialization Day in November 2013, the African Union, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization organized a joint event that deliberated on job creation and entrepreneurship development as a means to accelerate industrialization in Africa.

51. At the seventh joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abuja in March 2014, African ministers discussed industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa. The meeting underscored that Africa's growth has not been sufficiently inclusive and broad-based, because of its continued reliance on the exploitation of raw materials with limited value addition. This does not maximize returns to Africans from the wealth created from the continent's vast natural resources. Therefore, a new approach is required that will ensure Africa's industrialization and structural transformation are inclusive. The meeting underscored the need for coherent long-term development planning frameworks with inclusive development goals and adopted a ministerial statement underscoring a set of actions to advance industrialization for structural transformation that boost African economies, empower citizens and advance African integration.

G. Support for security sector reform and disarmament, demobiiization and reintegration

52. In April 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2151 reaffirming the importance of security sector reform in post-conflict situations. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO facilitated the development of a national security and justice strategy, provided capacity-building support to the Congolese National Police, including in community policing in Bunia, and supported the Government in the development of its national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

53. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) assisted the national authorities in the implementation of the national security sector reform strategy and is building the capacity of the secretariat of the National Security Council. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is helping the Government enhance oversight, accountability and management of its security sector, and strengthen the financial sustainability of reform efforts.

54. In Mali, MINUSMA is fostering a nationally owned security sector reform programme and coordinating the overall support of the international community in security sector reform. In Somalia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) is supporting the Federal Government's efforts to establish a National Security Council secretariat. In Guinea-Bissau, the United Nations provided support to the permanent secretariat of the national security sector reform steering committee in drafting a concept note on the way forward in implementing up-to-date national security sector reform plans.

V. Persistent and emerging challenges and opportunities: a transformative agenda to achieve a conflict-free Africa

55. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/278, this section provides an overview of persistent and emerging challenges to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. It also examines existing and emerging opportunities, notably the African Union's agenda for a conflict-free Africa, and the United Nations approach and support for this agenda.

A. Overview

56. The African Union Assembly, at its fifth ordinary session in Sirte, Libya, in July 2005, adopted a declaration on the review of the Millennium Development Goals (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(V)), in which it pledged to address conflict and political instability on the continent with the aim of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010. The international community, including the United Nations, rallied to support this five-year target.

57. While Africa did make significant progress in addressing and resolving its conflicts, the goal of a conflict-free Africa by 2010 was not realized, owing to persistent and new challenges, some of which I have addressed in preceding reports on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. These include the poor management of diversity, elections-triggered conflict, natural resource-based conflicts and youth unemployment.

58. Relentless in its determination to achieve this goal, the African Union Assembly, at its twenty-first ordinary session in May 2013, commemorating 50 years of the Organization of African Unity/African Union, adopted a declaration in which it again pledged to end all wars by 2020 and achieve a conflict-free Africa. The current conflict situations on the continent diminish optimism that Africa will indeed end all wars and be conflict-free in the next six-and-half years. Nevertheless, it is in the collective interest of the international community to work with African Governments, institutions and people, at all levels, in achieving this goal. The role of the United Nations will be extremely important in this regard.

B. Persistent and emerging challenges

59. Africa currently faces a new wave of complex challenges to peace, security, governance and sustainable development, including terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crime, illicit financial flows, poor natural resource management and climate change.

60. As my first biennial report on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development (A/69/163) extensively addresses climate change issues, and having previously addressed conflict and natural resources in my 2011 report on the implementation of recommendations (A/66/214-S/2011/476), I will limit this section to discussing terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crimes and illicit financial flows.

1. Terrorism and violent extremism

61. During the review period, Africa experienced increased terrorist activities, in particular in the Maghreb and Sahel regions. This resulted in deaths, human casualties, the destruction of property, abduction, sexual slavery, displacements, the loss of livelihoods, insecurity and the polarization of communities along political, ethnic and religious lines.

62. Terrorism and violent extremism in Africa are enabled by a number of factors. As the cases of Mali, Nigeria and Somalia demonstrate, widespread poverty, poor governance, weak public institutions, economic inequalities and high rates of unemployment create conditions for radicalization and violent extremism. Terrorist

groups exploit these situations to recruit new members and win the hearts and minds of communities. Tackling corruption, creating decent employment, providing basic social services to especially deprived communities and building strong and accountable public institutions are critical for countering radicalization, extremism and delegitimizing popular support for terrorist groups. Public-private partnerships and the engagement of civil society groups, including religious and community leaders, are also important in this process.

63. Countering terrorism also entails a focus on the source of terrorist financing, including kidnapping and hostage-taking. African Union Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.256(XIII)) of July 2009 strongly condemns the payment of ransom to terrorist groups. The United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, at their eighth annual joint consultative meeting, further called on all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages. They also considered sanctions as an important tool in countering terrorism and welcomed the inclusion of Boko Haram on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List.

2. Transnational organized crime

64. Transnational organized crime continues to pose serious challenges to peace, security and development in Africa. Besides traditional crimes like trafficking in drugs, persons and arms, there is a proliferation of new forms of transnational criminal activities in Africa. These include cybercrime, identity theft, trafficking of cultural property, environmental crimes and counterfeit medicine.

65. Most African countries currently lack the requisite infrastructure to address cybercrimes, including energy, Internet and communications technology. Investments in infrastructure, science and technology, and scientific cooperation within the public and private sectors, are therefore crucial and urgent. In my report on NEPAD (A/69/161) I outlined Africa's efforts in infrastructure development, and science, technology and innovation. I also emphasized the need to leverage private sector participation in infrastructure through innovative public-private partnerships, as underscored by the Dakar Agenda for Action of June 2014.

66. Furthermore, most militia or armed groups are either linked to transnational criminal groups or directly engaged in environmental crimes as a means of financing their operations. Militia groups in Central Africa are estimated to earn between $4 million and $12.2 million each year from elephant ivory. The Environmental Crime Crisis assessment report,[3] released during the first United Nations Environment Assembly, states that one terrorist group in East Africa is estimated to make between $38 million and $56 million per year from illegal trade in charcoal. In total, militia and terrorist groups in and around African nations with ongoing conflicts may earn between $111 million to $289 million annually from their involvement in, and taxing of, the illegal or unregulated charcoal trade.

67. Transnational organized crimes deprive African economies of billions of dollars, threaten livelihoods and undermine good governance. Hence, the role of Governments, parliaments, security and law enforcement agencies and regional

[3] The report is available at www.unep.org/newscentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=2791&ArticleID=10906&l=en.

institutions is critical for strengthening and enforcing legislation to combat these crimes.

3. Illicit financial flows

68. Illicit financial flows are a major development and governance challenge. The loss of national revenue and assets intended for delivering social services and long-term development impairs Governments, communities and businesses from making the investments necessary to create resilient pathways for economic growth and prosperity.

69. In recognition of the enormous cost of illicit financial flows to the development of the continent, the fourth joint African Union/ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in March 2011, adopted a resolution that established the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. According to the progress report of the Panel, that was presented to the Conference of Ministers in Abuja, in March 2014, illicit flows from Africa amount to approximately $50 billion annually. This is approximately the official development assistance that Africa receives every year and, indeed, this estimate may well be short of reality. Noting that this is an African problem with a global solution, the report called for international cooperation and capacity development assistance to Africa in tackling illicit financial flows.

C. Making peace a reality: a renewed plan for a conflict-free Africa

70. In May 2013, the African Union Assembly reaffirmed its determination to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa that is driven and managed by its own citizens. In that regard, African leaders adopted the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, which outlined eight priority agendas for action towards realizing this continental vision: African identity and renaissance, the struggle against colonialism and the right to self-determination, integration, social and economic development, peace and security, democratic governance, Africa's destiny, and Africa's place in the world.

71. The agenda on peace and security categorically stated a shared determination to "end all wars in Africa by 2020" and "achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa". Following this, the African Union Peace and Security Council in April 2014 discussed the theme "Silencing guns: prerequisite for realizing a conflict-free Africa by 2020", with the aim of defining a framework of actions required to achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa by 2020. The African Union Commission also organized a retreat in South Africa in April 2014 on the same theme, with the participation of senior officials of the United Nations, to establish a precise agenda and workplan for achieving the goal in line with Agenda 2063. The African Union Assembly, in its decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.536(XXIII)) of June 2014, further called for renewed efforts by the African Union member States, the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms towards achieving this objective.

72. The logic of the agenda is unequivocal and sequenced. In the short to medium term, the plan is to silence the guns and end all wars by 2020, as a required precursor for attaining a conflict-free Africa, which is a longer-term goal. Concrete actions to achieve this milestone within the next six-and-half-year period will thus

have to be undertaken in tandem with the longer-term plan being outlined in Agenda 2063. After 2020, efforts to consolidate the gains made during this period and tackle remaining challenges will naturally progress within the framework of Agenda 2063.

73. Substantively, the agenda envisions an inclusive society that is stable, safe and just for all Africans. The African person is at its core, regardless of sex, age, religion, nationality, ethnicity or race, ancestry, class or disability. Consequently, the agenda focuses on overcoming exclusion and promoting inclusive institutions and participatory processes for political, economic, sociocultural and environmental development. Its ideals and guiding principles are Pan-Africanism, respect for human rights, non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, justice and participation of all, including disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable groups and persons. Its approach encourages collaboration and partnerships among Governments at all levels, civil society, including the media, the private sector, the African diaspora and international partners in harnessing Africa's resources for the development and shared prosperity of its people.

74. In order to achieve this, and as outlined in the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the African Union has set out to eradicate recurring and emerging threats, including terrorism, piracy, extremism, armed rebellion and transnational organized crimes like trafficking in narcotics and humans and cybercrimes. The African Union will continue to devise measures to ensure the effective implementation of agreements on landmines and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapons. Special attention will be given to the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees, including by eliminating the root causes of all conflicts through sustained investments in conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Alongside this, Africa's peacekeeping and enforcement capacities through the African Standby Force should be operationalized.

75. The African Union undertakes to end impunity and ensure accountability by strengthening national and continental justice institutions. The rule of law, democratic institutions and processes and service delivery capacities will equally be strengthened, alongside efforts to combat corruption and oppression. Underlying this is a commitment to develop human capital, protect rights, particularly those of women, children and the youth, and eradicate diseases. This is closely aligned with my "Rights up front" initiative, and I encou age the African Union to further benefit from the support of the United Nations in this area.

76. The aim of silencing the guns and ending all wars in Africa in a little over six years may appear ambitious, considering the current situations in the Central African Republic, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan. These conflicts need to be addressed and resolved as a matter of urgency, if the guns are to be silenced by 2020. This will require the sustained political will, commitment, leadership and responsibility of African Governments and peoples, as well as strategic and sustained partnerships with the international community.

77. As highlighted in preceding sections of the present report, the United Nations is already supporting regional, subregional and national efforts aimed at resolving these conflicts. However, more needs to be done to support the African Union in

achieving the current goal. The General Assembly may wish to consider defining a concrete five-year actionable plan in support of the goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2020. Such a plan should seek to accelerate ongoing efforts to resolve the crises in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, among others, while also focusing on quick impact initiatives to be undertaken in close collaboration with the African Union and the regional economic communities.

D. Strengthening United Nations engagement and support for a conflict-free Africa

78. Since June 2011, the General Assembly has repeatedly called for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach among Governments, the African Union, the regional economic communities, the United Nations system and relevant partners in addressing challenges, with a view to achieving progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa. The General Assembly reiterated this call in its resolution 68/278.

79. While the support of the international community is important, it should be stressed that the primary responsibility for achieving a conflict-free Africa lies with African Member States and institutions at all levels. As such, the roles and contributions of the United Nations should mainly be in support of Africa's own efforts and agendas, as currently articulated in the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD strategic plan 2014-2017, the forthcoming Agenda 2063 and the broad array of African Union instruments on peace, security and development. In other words, United Nations support should be better aligned to the strategic priorities of the African Union.

80. Given varied mandates, resource constraints and competing priorities, United Nations support should be coherent and coordinated. The Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the interdepartmental task force on African affairs remain veritable platforms for strengthening coordination and coherence to better deliver as one United Nations. United Nations system entities should strengthen their collaboration within the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the interdepartmental task force on African affairs, in particular in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution, human rights, governance and the rule of law, and post-conflict reconstruction and development.

81. In this regard, the commitments made by Member States, in providing additional financial and human resources, to strengthen the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts to undertake its increasing responsibilities, including as the convener of the interdepartmental task force on African affairs, are welcome. This will reflect positively in the implementation of its mandate on peace, security and development.

82. The Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union has also been instrumental in improving coherence and alignment of United Nations system support with the strategic priorities of the African Union, including in conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. As this important programme will expire in 2016, the United Nations and the African Union took a joint decision during the fifteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in Abuja, in March 2014, to establish a working group to start

formulating a successor programme that will also reflect the support of the United Nations to Agenda 2063.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

83. While African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities continue to make progress in consolidating the African Peace and Security Architecture and accelerating efforts to implement the commitments contained in the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, in particular on silencing the guns, ending all wars by 2020 and achieving a conflict-free Africa, **the United Nations should intensify its support and cooperation with African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms towards the timely realization of this goal. In particular, the United Nations should consider putting in place a five-year plan to support the efforts of the African Union and the regional economic communities towards achieving a conflict-free Africa. This plan should include measures for accelerating ongoing efforts to address the situation in current epicentres of conflict, as these pose significant threats to the realization of a conflict-free Africa by the set timeline. As sustained and strategic partnerships will be crucial for achieving a conflict-free Africa, this plan should also include measures to systematically engage the private sector and civil society, especially women and youths, in these processes.**

84. The transformative agenda of the African Union underscores the interlinkages between peace, security, development, human rights and governance. **As the United Nations has a comparative advantage in operationalizing this nexus, the United Nations system should strengthen capacity development for the African Union and regional economic communities in this area through the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa.**

85. **As this nexus is further reflected in the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the international community and the United Nations should continue to give due attention to Africa's priorities in ongoing negotiations on the sustainable development goals and in the last phase of formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.**

86. The African Union, at the tenth anniversary of its Peace and Security Council, in May 2014, underscored the need for more resources to support and strengthen the Continental Early Warning System, the good offices role of Special Envoys and Representatives and post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts, including through the African Solidarity Initiative. The Council also emphasized the need for greater engagement with the African Union Panel of the Wise and similar structures at the level of the regional economic communities. **Within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the United Nations should continue to support African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities in further strengthening capacities for early warning, conflict analysis, dialogue and mediation. The growing collaboration between United Nations and the African Union in the area of good offices and between United Nations and African Union Envoys should also be enhanced.**

87. Bearing in mind the importance of good governance and inclusive, effective and accountable public institutions for ensuring durable peace and sustainable development, **the international community, including the United Nations system, should, upon request, support African countries in their ongoing efforts to promote democratic governance, the rule of law and accountability in public institutions. Continued support for inclusive, free, credible and peaceful elections will be important in this regard.**

88. With Africa increasingly appearing to be the new epicentre of terrorism, a coherent security agenda is needed to tackle the growing problem of terrorism and violent extremism. Given that terrorism in Africa is largely a social phenomenon, it is also important to strengthen the engagement of civilians in counter-terrorism efforts. **As such, the United Nations should work closely with the African Union and the regional economic communities in supporting the development and implementation of regional counter-terrorism action plans that are people-centred. As these efforts should ideally include support to victims of terrorism, I also encourage African Governments, the African Union, the regional economic communities and African civil society organizations to utilize the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.**[4]

89. To prevent radicalization and violent extremism, African countries need to take concrete measures to bolster State security forces' and law enforcement agencies' respect for human rights and the rule of law, promote civil-military relations and devise development programmes, particularly for youths. **In this regard, the United Nations should continue to support African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities in implementing the African Union security sector reform policy framework, which was adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government in 2013. The effective implementation of the framework will also be vital for strengthening institutional capacities and regional cooperation among security and law enforcement agencies in addressing transnational organized crime, including trafficking in arms, cyber and environmental crimes.**

90. Given the links between natural resource management and conflict, it is imperative to integrate natural resource management and environmental considerations into frameworks for conflict prevention, management and resolution. **I call on United Nations system entities to mainstream this perspective within their various mandates and expertise in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development.**

91. **Given the impact of illicit financial flows on Africa's governance and structural transformation agendas, African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities, in cooperation with the international community, should further strengthen efforts to confront the scourge of illicit financial flows, including through combating corruption in both public and corporate sectors and preventing tax evasion.**

92. As Africa's transformation agenda is still evolving and includes a number of different components, it is important to closely monitor its development to ensure that the support of the United Nations system is constantly aligned with Africa's

[4] www.un.org/victimsofterrorism/en.

priorities. **In this regard, United Nations system entities should strengthen coherence and coordination within the interdepartmental task force on African affairs to monitor and report on these developments. In addition, as the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union expires in 2016, the United Nations and the African Union should accelerate the work of the joint working group established by the fifteenth Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to propose to Member States a successor programme to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union that will be closely aligned to the Agenda 2063 of the African Union.**

United Nations A/69/163

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Item 63 (a) of the provisional agenda*
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Biennial report on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/293, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present at its sixty-ninth session the first biennial report on the review of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development. The report, interim in nature but comprehensive in substance, outlines the establishment and operationalization of the United Nations monitoring mechanism and provides its first biennial review. The United Nations monitoring mechanism is the first such mechanism in the United Nations system aimed at monitoring commitments made towards Africa's development, including commitments made by African countries and their development partners.

The timing of the report is opportune as it coincides with the final stretch of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, ongoing deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals and the formulation of several important Africa-focused initiatives, including the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063, the continent's forthcoming transformative agenda for the next 50 years.

* A/69/150.

14-58425 (E) 110814

Please recycle

The report provides an in-depth review of the implementation of commitments in four thematic areas: (a) agriculture, food security and nutrition; (b) financing for development; (c) environmental sustainability and climate change; and (d) good governance. The report highlights the most significant commitments made by African Governments and their development partners; examines progress towards the implementation of these commitments; identifies gaps and remaining challenges; and proposes measures to ensure the accelerated implementation of these commitments and deliver on their expected outcomes.

I. Introduction

1. In 2008, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of Member States adopted a political declaration to address "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" (General Assembly resolution 63/1). The declaration reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to addressing the development needs of Africa and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, a comprehensive report with recommendations on the implementation of these commitments with a view to formulating a mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to Africa's development.

2. At its sixty-sixth session, following a debate on the report of the Secretary-General on a monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs (A/65/165), the General Assembly adopted resolution 66/293, by which it established the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development. In the resolution, the Assembly requested the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to serve as secretariat for the review, in coordination with relevant entities of the United Nations system.

3. In accordance with resolution 66/293, the United Nations monitoring mechanism: (a) builds on existing monitoring mechanisms; (b) stresses the centrality of the principles of mutual accountability and partnership, focusing on commitments by both development partners and African countries; (c) is grounded on reliable, available and timely data, including at the country level, to enable the assessment of outcomes and impact; and (d) focuses on the implementation of multilateral commitments of both development partners and African countries arising from, inter alia, major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

4. Existing commitments made towards Africa's development span the entire sustainable development landscape. In view of the significant challenges still faced by the continent, the fulfilment of these commitments is critical for Africa's sustainable development. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), Member States underscored (a) the critical importance of supporting Africa's sustainable development efforts by the international community and (b) recognized that more attention should be given to Africa and the implementation of previously agreed commitments related to its development needs. The United Nations monitoring mechanism should be seen as an important step in that direction.

5. The monitoring mechanism focuses on the implementation of commitments arising from, among others, major United Nations conferences, including the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in 2002; the 2005 World Summit; the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in 2008; the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in 2009; the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010; the Fourth

United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in 2011; and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012.

6. The findings of the present report have significant relevance for ongoing processes related to the post-2015 development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework, the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the structured dialogues on the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism, called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The monitoring mechanism will also assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, in conjunction with the follow-up mechanism to be established by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. It will also provide the groundwork for the United Nations support for Agenda 2063, Africa's forthcoming, 50-year transformative development agenda, anchored on the aspirations set forth in the African Union 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, adopted at the African Union Summit in May 2013. The timely implementation of all commitments towards Africa's development is important to supporting Africa's short-, medium- and long-term development agendas.

7. In section II, the report outlines the establishment and operationalization of the United Nations monitoring mechanism, as well as the process and scope of the report. Section III provides a detailed assessment of the implementation of commitments in each of the four thematic areas selected for the report, highlighting key commitments both by African countries and their development partners, progress towards their implementation, and analysis of any implementation gaps. Section IV provides concrete recommendations to galvanize full and timely implementation of these commitments.

II. Establishment and operationalization of the United Nations monitoring mechanism

A. Existing monitoring landscape

8. There is a wide range of global, regional and national mechanisms that monitor commitments made towards Africa's development, including the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness, undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the African Peer Review Mechanism, the World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Global Monitoring Report*, the Africa Progress Panel Report, the *Development Support Monitor* of the African Monitor, the International Aid Transparency Initiative and various accountability reports issued by the Group of Eight and the Group of 20 on their development commitments towards developing countries in general and to Africa in particular (for additional information, see the annex to the present report).

9. Established with different objectives, existing monitoring mechanisms vary greatly with regard to: (a) thematic coverage; (b) the focus on inputs or outcomes; (c) the breadth of their analysis/substantiation; (d) the comprehensiveness of data used; and (e) the extent of stakeholder participation in the monitoring process.

10. Most existing mechanisms have a sector-specific focus that addresses only a limited number of commitments under a particular theme. Those that have a broader sectoral focus often address only commitments made by few development partners such as the OECD countries, the European Union or the Group of Eight. In general, these mechanisms lack comprehensive monitoring of all development partners, particularly monitoring of commitments by Africa's new development partners. Another significant gap in the existing monitoring mechanisms is the limited involvement of key stakeholders. Existing mechanisms rarely engage key non-State actors such as civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, the media and other groups whose roles are relevant for monitoring at the country level.

11. Monitoring processes have increasingly relied on quantitative analyses, although significant statistical gaps remain both in terms of coverage and timeliness. In regard to development partners, while a large amount of data is now available from the United Nations, OECD and other international and regional organizations, significant data shortcomings have resulted in a lack of independently verifiable data on the delivery of commitments. There is also a dearth of reporting and a scarcity of data on implementation of commitments by Africa's new development partners. At the African country level, with the exception of primary education, selected health information and other development areas that have received worldwide monitoring as part of the Millennium Development Goals process, sectoral data remain inadequate and will need renewed and sustained attention.

12. Taken collectively, existing mechanisms provide wide-ranging and varied coverage of commitments made by African countries and their development partners towards Africa's development.

B. United Nations monitoring mechanism

13. Recognizing the aforementioned gaps in the existing monitoring landscape, the General Assembly, by its resolution 66/293, established the United Nations monitoring mechanism, a mechanism that will ensure comprehensive coverage of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development. It does so by synthesizing the findings of the many disparate existing mechanisms to identify monitoring gaps and develop a coherent and comprehensive picture that reflects the overall commitment landscape. As such, the monitoring mechanism will be an important tool for African countries and their development partners in tracking overall progress towards commitments and charting a comprehensive and coherent way forward, particularly in view of the wide range of existing commitments and forthcoming commitments as part of the post-2015 development framework and Agenda 2063.

14. On the breadth of coverage, the design of the United Nations monitoring mechanism and the nature of its biennial reviews will ensure thorough assessments of the implementation of commitments in all thematic areas of significance to Africa's development. The monitoring mechanism will review commitments made towards Africa's development, focusing on the implementation of multilateral commitments arising from, among others, major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. Emphasizing the importance of the principles of mutual accountability and partnership, the monitoring mechanism will focus on the implementation of commitments both by African countries and

their development partners. As a result, the monitoring mechanism will provide a systematic review of the widest range of development commitments towards Africa's development as well as relevant actors, including new development partners, which have played an increasingly important role in contributing to Africa's development.

15. In resolution 66/293, the General Assembly invited civil society organizations, the private sector, parliamentarians, the media, academia and foundations to contribute to the biennial review of the United Nations monitoring mechanism, ensuring the engagement of the largest possible range of key non-governmental stakeholders. In addition, the monitoring mechanism will conduct its biennial reviews under the aegis of the General Assembly, the universal membership of which will enhance the inclusive nature of the mechanism and enable it to galvanize critical contributions from all relevant government entities and United Nations entities.

16. As recommended in the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General (A/65/165), future reports for the biennial review will be built upon extensive consultation with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, with the aim of mobilizing key inputs and collecting quantitative and qualitative data. In particular, consultations will be carried out with Member States, including African countries, traditional and new development partners as well as with various stakeholders, including regional and international organizations and civil society organizations. The outcomes from each of these stakeholder consultations will serve as inputs into the biennial report, which will be deliberated on by the General Assembly in the context of its agenda item on the development of Africa.

III. Process and scope of the present report

17. While the General Assembly has allocated additional resources for the United Nations monitoring mechanism within the budget for the biennium 2014-2015, the time left for its first biennial review became too short. As a result of these constraints, this first report on the monitoring mechanism was prepared using a different consultation process than is envisaged for future reviews. The present section outlines the process used in the preparation of the report as well as the scope of its thematic coverage.

A. Process

18. For the preparation of the interim report, the United Nations monitoring mechanism reviewed and synthesized the data and findings of more than 50 relevant existing monitoring mechanisms, including both global and regional mechanisms.

19. In view of time constraints, the monitoring mechanism conducted extensive consultations, engaging all relevant stakeholders through comprehensive questionnaires. Extensive survey questionnaires were sent to Governments, including those of African countries as well as traditional and new development partners. In addition, comprehensive surveys were also sent to a large representative cross sample of key stakeholders, including civil society and other non-governmental actors. The questionnaires sought recipients' perspectives on the

extent to which commitments have been delivered in the four topics covered in the report, important challenges to the delivery of these commitments, the main outcomes and impacts that the delivery of these commitments may have generated and possible additional measures needed to achieve the full benefits of these commitments. Important consultations were also undertaken with United Nations system entities, particularly through the interdepartmental task force on African affairs. The outcomes of these consultations have contributed greatly to the analysis presented in section IV of the report, as well as to its conclusions and recommendations.

B. Scope

20. Following extensive consultation through the inter-agency task force on African affairs, four thematic areas were selected for the present interim report. The four selected themes, which are briefly described below, were selected on the basis of their strong relevance to the major intergovernmental processes taking place during the next biennium, including negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, which are closely related to all four of the thematic areas. The four thematic areas are also closely aligned with the thematic priorities identified in the strategic frameworks of both the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for the period 2014-2017.

21. The four thematic areas to be reviewed in the present report are:

(a) *Agriculture, food security and nutrition.* 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), one of the leading projects of NEPAD. In addition, 2014 has been designated the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa by the African Union Summit, and the International Year of Family Farming by the United Nations General Assembly (see resolution 66/222). The Group of Eight L'Aquila Food Security Initiative concludes in 2015. Agriculture, food security and nutrition have featured strongly in the deliberations of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals as well as in the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda. The review gave due consideration to the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[1] the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security,[1] the CAADP commitments, the L'Aquila commitments and others;

(b) *Financing for development.* This theme is highly relevant in view of the upcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development as well as the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The review gave due consideration to major commitments reached in previous forums, including the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and the Group of Eight Gleneagles commitments on development assistance to Africa;

(c) *Environmental sustainability and climate change.* This theme is particularly timely in view of the ongoing implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as well as ongoing

[1] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

intergovernmental negotiations on the sustainable development goals, sustainable development financing and the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate the transfer of technology. In 2015, members of the Framework Convention on Climate Change are expected to adopt a new global agreement on climate change. Prior to the high-level segment of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General will convene a climate summit to engage leaders in order to catalyse ambitious action on the ground to reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience and mobilize political will for an ambitious global legal agreement by 2015. The review gave due consideration to major conference outcomes, including the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(d) *Good governance*. Various outcomes of international conferences and summits have emphasized the need to review progress towards promoting and sustaining good governance, owing largely to the growing global consensus, supported by African leaders themselves, that good governance is essential to consolidating democracy, enhancing peace and security, ensuring inclusive and equitable economic growth and supporting post-conflict peacebuilding. The next few years will witness efforts by African Governments and their development partners to deepen their commitment to improve governance on the continent. The review considered the various international commitments related to governance as well as key African initiatives, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Union 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the Pan-African Governance Architecture, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

22. In view of the significant relevance of the Millennium Development Goals to each of the selected thematic areas, progress towards the achievement of the relevant Goals will be addressed as a cross-cutting issue in each of the four themes.

IV. Assessment and findings on key commitments for the four themes

23. The present section contains an assessment of progress towards the implementation of commitments made by African countries and their development partners in the four thematic areas identified in the previous section. Recommendations for policy actions based on the findings of the analysis are detailed in the final section. From the list of commitments made by African countries and development partners in the four thematic areas, 13 representative commitments were identified for systematic assessment. The report assesses the extent to which each commitment has been delivered and, where relevant, identifies gaps in implementation and their possible causes.

A. Agriculture, food security and nutrition

24. Agricultural constraints and widespread food insecurity have generated renewed commitments by African Governments and development partners,

including new development partners, to support growth in agriculture, intensify sectoral investments, improve food security and enhance nutrition, so as to achieve poverty eradication and the elimination of hunger. Efforts have also aimed at encouraging higher productivity and value addition, in order to create new income-generating opportunities and attract unemployed labour, in particular younger generations. With high demographic pressure in the past 50 years, Africa is able to meet only 80 per cent of its food requirements, and food insecurity has worsened.

25. Pursuing the objectives of the Millennium Development Goal on poverty and hunger, the African Union established CAADP as the overarching NEPAD framework for agricultural development, building on the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, adopted in Maputo in 2003. In 2013, the African Union adopted a strategy for sustaining the momentum of CAADP and has declared 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa. In its 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, adopted in 2013, the African Union committed to make agriculture a central pillar of the continent's transformative agenda. The 24th African Union Summit, held in June 2014 in Malabo, committed to double agricultural productivity on the continent and halve post-harvest losses by 2025. Also at the Summit, NEPAD launched an alliance of diverse partners to reach 6 million farming families through climate-smart agriculture processes over the next seven years. Known as the Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance, the group will contribute to helping 25 million farmers become more resilient and food secure by 2025.

26. Africa's efforts in agriculture, food security and nutrition are supported by many initiatives, including the Zero Hunger Challenge, launched by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and taken forward by the 23 United Nations system entities that make up the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. The General Assembly has also passed several resolutions on agriculture, food security and nutrition, including resolution 65/178 on agriculture development and food security.

27. In 2012, Group of Eight leaders confirmed their support to agriculture and food security within the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and agreed to mobilize $20 billion over three years. Also in 2012, the Group of 20 focused on improving markets for food and agriculture through better policy coordination information and transparency, reducing excessive price volatility and the removal of export restrictions and taxes on food for non-commercial humanitarian purposes.

28. Support to agriculture and food security in Africa has also included specific programmes launched by bilateral development partners. The Yokohama Declaration 2013, adopted at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, contains specific commitments to support agricultural development in Africa through CAADP, including through improving agricultural technologies, agricultural processing, post-harvest storage, access to markets and access to fertilizers and other inputs, with a view to a better balanced agricultural value chain in Africa, moving from subsistence to commercial agriculture. The action plan of the Declaration reiterated the CAADP target of 6 per cent growth for Africa's agricultural sector, doubling its rice production by 2018. Other examples include the United States-led Feed the Future initiative and the European Union Food Facility and Africa Science, Technology and Innovation initiatives to promote food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in Africa, as well as programmes

funded by international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Stop Hunger initiative, led by Oxfam, and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, founded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

29. In recent years, South-South cooperation has opened new opportunities for mutual learning in agriculture as well as the transfer of new technologies. These partnerships have followed different patterns and approaches, focusing alternately on economic cooperation, agribusiness, family farming, scientific research and innovation. Data on cooperation from new partners, however, are fragmented, not uniform and of varied quality.

Commitment: achieve an annual rate of growth of agriculture of 6 per cent and allocate 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agricultural development[2]

30. In line with the Maputo Declaration, African countries continue to make progress in the implementation of their CAADP commitments. With regard to the CAADP 6 per cent growth target for agricultural production, 10 African countries have achieved or exceeded the target and 4 countries have achieved a 5 to 6 per cent increase (see A/69/161). The continental average for growth in agricultural production between 2003 and 2011 was 3.6 per cent, which is lower than the average of 4.7 per cent achieved in the previous 20 years. Growth has been largely based on the use of more land and labour, rather than productivity gains and technological innovations.

31. With regard to budgetary allocations, 12 African countries have reached or surpassed the 10 per cent budgetary allocation target, while 13 others were in the 5-10 per cent range. Even those countries that have not met the target have made progress. Public investments by national Governments, however, are largely related to efforts from development partners to support agriculture through official development assistance (ODA). Unfortunately, ODA for agriculture from OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries declined from 16 per cent of total ODA in 1980 to 3 per cent in 2006. In 2013, agricultural ODA exceeded 10 per cent of total country ODA in only 8 African countries and was lower than 5 per cent in 29 African countries. Following the 2008 food price crisis, however, ODA for agriculture has improved, increasing from $1.9 billion in 2008 to $3 billion in 2011.

32. In this context, in July 2009, in the framework of the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, Group of Eight members committed to substantially increase aid to agriculture and food security, including through multi-year resource commitments. In particular, they agreed to mobilize $20 billion over three years through a coordinated, comprehensive strategy focused on sustainable agriculture development, while keeping a strong commitment to ensure adequate emergency food aid assistance. Actual pledging for the Initiative eventually amounted to $22.2 billion to support African food security. However, of that total amount pledged, only $6.8 billion represents additional funding, while the remaining corresponds to funding previously committed. As of March 2013, actual disbursements of funds from those pledges with concrete initiatives amounted to 67 per cent of the total. According to the 2012 L'Aquila Food Security Initiative Final Report, of the 13 donor countries that have

[2] Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, adopted at the Second Ordinary Assembly of the African Union, held in Maputo in 2003 (Assembly/AU/Decl. 7(II)).

committed themselves to L'Aquila, 7 — Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland — have fully disbursed their pledges.

33. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme is a multilateral mechanism to assist in the implementation of pledges made by the Group of 20 in Pittsburgh in September 2009. The objective is to improve incomes and food and nutrition security in low-income countries by boosting agricultural productivity. Since 2010, $1.5 billion has been pledged to its public and private funding windows, with projects approved in 12 African countries. Donor countries have also committed to use CAADP as the framework for their support to Africa's agricultural development, including by funding the CAADP process. The CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund, operated through the World Bank, is aimed at building the capacity of CAADP institutions and funding its processes. Thus far, the Trust Fund has six donors, including the European Commission, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States Agency for International Development, which as of 2012 have collectively disbursed $35 million of the $50 million committed. OECD countries have also implemented major reforms aimed at liberalizing agricultural markets. While total support to agriculture has not declined in nominal terms over the past decade, averaging about $389 billion in the period 2009-2011, the share of market distorting measures such as price support and input subsidies has declined considerably from 90 per cent in the 1980s to 58 per cent in 2011. In spite of this progress, significant distortions remain.

34. Africa's new development partners,[3] both government and non-governmental entities, have also increased their support for agricultural production and food security in Africa, although these efforts have largely been bilateral in nature. In recent years, new partners such as Brazil, China, India and Turkey have intensified their contributions to technical cooperation and promoting new investment in agriculture in Africa. The BRIC countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India and China) have increased investment in agricultural projects, with a positive impact on rural employment, increased agricultural productivity and exports. No aggregate information is available, however, on commitments of these partners to Africa's agriculture. Where data on actual delivery are available, they are generally fragmented and of weak quality, in large part because the cooperation takes varied forms. For example, the agricultural development cooperation of Brazil and China in Ghana, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe involves a wide variety of support modalities, including grants, concessional loans, trade deals and commercial investment, as well as technical assistance and knowledge-sharing on successful agricultural development policies.

35. While the above-mentioned measures undertaken by African countries and their development partners over the past several years have contributed to improving agricultural performance in Africa, significant challenges remain. Cereal yields in Africa continue to be among the lowest in the world. Arable land has failed to keep pace with population growth and only 6 per cent is irrigated, causing high reliance on rain-fed agriculture and vulnerability to changing climate. In addition,

[3] The vast majority of systematic information available to the report on specific contributions from Africa's new development partners addressed to agriculture, food security and nutrition primarily relates to bilateral initiatives at the project level.

the continent's agricultural ambitions are further constrained by lack of market access to global and regional agricultural markets.

Commitment: improve food security through setting up emergency food reserves and strengthening information and early warning systems on food availability

36. Responding to the challenges of climate change, bioenergy, leaders at the High-level Conference on World Food Security, held in 2008, called on the international community to increase assistance for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and those most negatively affected by high food prices, to improve world food security, soliciting an increase in agricultural investment, enhancement of agricultural productivity and strengthening of corresponding financing. The Conference represented a defining moment for international commitment to support food security, with many Governments announcing firm financial commitments aimed at countries most affected by the world food crisis.

37. In this context, African countries and their development partners undertook a series of initiatives aimed at improving support to food security in the African region. Among these initiatives, the African Union launched the African Risk Capacity as a specialized agency of the African Union to help its member States in improving their capacities to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters. It aims to assist its member States to protect the food security of their vulnerable populations. Safety nets have also been established to reduce food insecurity risks. Strategic grain reserves have helped, including efforts by the Economic Community of West African States to establish targeted regional emergency food reserve systems. Despite these efforts, however, reserves only amount to 17 per cent of overall demand for cereals in sub-Saharan Africa.

38. The international community has supported these efforts through initiatives promoted by United Nations system agencies and development partners that supported Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security at the national and regional levels. Following the High-level Conference on World Food Security, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Initiative on Soaring Food Prices continued to expand, working primarily with small farmers to increase food production through improved seeds and fertilizers.

39. While the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative pledge period has come to an end, the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security remains as important today as it was in 2009. Partly in recognition of this challenge, in 2012 the Group of Eight launched the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, aimed at lifting 50 million people out of poverty over a 10-year period and tackling food insecurity and undernutrition through a more coordinated approach at the country level in Africa. The New Alliance is a shared commitment of: (a) Africa's leadership to drive effective country plans and policies for food security; (b) private sector partners to increase investments where the conditions are right; and (c) development partners' (Group of Eight countries) efforts to expand Africa's potential for rapid and sustainable agricultural growth. The New Alliance supported a package of "Enabling actions" in a number of African countries, with a focus on smallholder farmers and women.

40. To address the problem of food security, African countries have pursued various strategies to cushion against food shortages and protect the most vulnerable

segments of the population. Efforts include the creation of strategic grain reserves, social protection programmes and the abolishment of taxes on food imports.

41. To address the problem of food price volatility, in 2011 the Group of 20 agriculture ministers agreed on an action plan to address volatility, including by committing to a broad scope of actions to boost agricultural growth and resilience, with particular attention to small farmers. Actions include enhancing food supply capacities, strengthening agricultural research systems and innovations, strengthening rice research and production and creating an enabling environment to increase public and private investment in agriculture. Significant actions have been undertaken since 2011, including the establishment of: (a) the International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement; (b) the Global Agricultural Geo-monitoring Initiative; and (c) the Agricultural Market Information System, which aims to develop early warning systems on looming food crises throughout the world by providing a framework for monitoring country-level data production, demand, price, trade and stocks.

42. In spite of these initiatives, Africa remains off-track for achieving the Millennium Development Goal 1 hunger targets. Data from the latest Millennium Development Goals Report show that the proportion of people in Africa living in extreme poverty declined from 56 per cent in 1990 to 48 per cent in 2013. Similarly, the proportion of undernourished in Africa declined modestly from 33 per cent to 25 per cent during the corresponding period. The prevalence of underweight among children under the age of 5 fell marginally from 29 per cent in 1990 to 21 per cent in 2013. Although, most African countries are unlikely to meet the targets by 2015, FAO recognized 12 African countries which have met the Millennium Development Goal 1 hunger target: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo.

43. National efforts alone, in the absence of a coordinated subregional strategy, are inadequate to respond effectively to widespread food shortages. For example, the 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa was estimated to have affected 13 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. While some parts of these countries and others in the region were experiencing bumper harvests, these surplus food stocks were unable to enter the distribution channels of the affected countries owing to poor infrastructure and cumbersome border restrictions.

Commitment: support policy environment for, and scaling up of, nutrition at the national, regional and continental levels

44. African countries and their development partners have intensified their commitment to support nutrition mainstreaming in their interventions. The NEPAD Agency's Food and Nutrition Security Programme represents a major effort to improve food security and the nutritional impact of the CAADP agricultural investment plans through the promotion of a multisectoral approach. Both the African Union and NEPAD strategic plans for 2014-2017 include support for nutrition. This increasing emphasis on nutrition within food security initiatives corresponds to a similar trend in the international community and several bilateral and multilateral organizations, making them instrumental in addressing nutrition through a multidimensional approach that includes not only new policies but also intensive advocacy.

45. Although these commitments cannot be easily measured, many CAADP national agriculture and food security investment plans include nutritional goals. Most of them, however, are lacking the concrete actions needed to ensure nutrition security, concentrating more on availing food and eliminating hunger. NEPAD has taken the initiative to strengthen its capacity for addressing nutrition in the formulation and implementation of the national plans by mainstreaming nutrition through a number of workshops and similar advocacy initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of including nutritional elements in food security policies, strategies and programmes in Africa. Nutrition country papers have also been prepared and endorsed by Member States. These papers summarize the nutrition situations of individual African countries, identifying major policies and programmes and illustrating possible country "road maps" to mainstream nutrition in the national agriculture and food security investment plan processes.

46. Thus far, efforts to mainstream nutrition in food security policies and initiatives are in their early stages, and limited information is available on results achieved, constraints, challenges and opportunities. While information on nutrition and micronutrient requirements at the country level may be available and used to support strategic planning, little is known about overall allocation of resources on nutrition activities at the national, regional and global levels.

47. As part of its efforts to support nutrition in Africa, NEPAD, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank and the Partnership for Child Development, launched Home Grown School Feeding programmes within the framework of CAADP. Such programmes link school feeding to local agricultural development, thereby improving resource allocation for food security, nutrition and child development. Other NEPAD initiatives on nutrition include the Programme for Orphans and Vulnerable Children; the launch of a "world breastfeeding week" in South Africa; and the formulation of a pilot analysis on Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda to measure the cost of hunger in Africa, with a focus on child undernutrition.

48. On a more global scale, the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, launched at the World Bank/IMF annual meeting of April 2010 and endorsed by over 100 entities, including Governments, research agencies, development cooperation agencies, United Nations institutions and NGOs, promotes nutrition in the global food security agenda. Currently, 34 African countries participate in the movement — a collective effort by Governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers to improve nutrition. Within the movement, national leaders are prioritizing efforts to address malnutrition by putting the right policies in place, collaborating with partners to implement programmes with shared nutrition goals and mobilizing resources to effectively scale up nutrition, with a core focus on empowering women. NEPAD supports the inclusion of African countries among the Scaling Up Nutrition countries so that efforts can be initiated to cost the scale-up of planned nutrition activities with a view to mobilizing greater resources.

B. Financing for development

49. The Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development, provides an overarching framework for financing for development, including internationally agreed development goals. It identifies the

following elements as key to financing for development: (a) mobilizing domestic financial resources for development; (b) mobilizing foreign direct investment and other international private flows; (c) international trade as an engine for development;[4] (d) increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development; (e) external debt; and (f) enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development for national and international development efforts. In the Consensus, world leaders urged OECD countries to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their GNP to the least developed countries. They also called for the full implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. These commitments were later reaffirmed at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Doha in 2008.

50. Development partners have made significant commitments in these six areas. Group of Eight countries pledged in 2005 to double development assistance to Africa by 2010. They further committed in 2005, through the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, to cancel 100 per cent of outstanding debts of eligible HIPCs by three multilateral institutions.[5] In the Group of Eight/Africa Joint Declaration of 2011, Group of Eight leaders reiterated the call to preserve debt sustainability in Africa. In 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution in which it stressed the importance of responsible lending and borrowing (see resolution 67/198).

51. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, world leaders called for renewed thinking on how to adequately provide the required development financing for development, particularly in the context of the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

52. In the case of Africa and other low-income countries, ODA has been essential in helping accelerate economic growth and lift people from extreme poverty over the past few decades and is expected to remain a critical source of development financing, especially for the poorest economies and conflict and post-conflict countries with limited or no access to capital markets. Declines in global ODA in 2011 and 2012, caused in part by the eurozone crisis, raised key questions as to the reliability of ODA in the future.

53. At the same time, the global development financing landscape has undergone major transformation, with a significant increase in the number of actors — bilateral and multilateral, public and private — and new and innovative financial modalities. In particular, South-South cooperation has gained importance in recent years, increasing in breadth and scale.

54. The challenges facing Africa are to enhance domestic revenue mobilization and, at the same time, to adopt the right policies and create credible institutions to leverage additional resources from external public and private sources.

---

[4] Although the role of international trade as an engine for development is one of the six leading action areas and pillars of the financing for development process, particularly given the rising importance of aid for trade, it was decided that international trade, including aid for trade will be covered in the future biennial review report.

[5] The International Development Association of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the African Development Fund.

Commitment: make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income as ODA to developing countries and ensure that ODA is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets

55. Preliminary figures by OECD show ODA rose by 6.1 per cent in 2013 to $134.8 billion after falling in 2011 and 2012 as Development Assistance Committee donors grappled with austerity measures. This represented roughly 0.3 per cent of the Development Assistance combined gross national income, still far off from the 0.7 per cent target. However, a number of countries, including Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, continue to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as ODA. Of particular relevance to Africa, preliminary data show that aid volume to Africa averaged about $50 billion in the past three years, approximately $11 billion below the 2010 level implied by the 2005 Group of Eight commitments. The Group of Eight accountability report released at the Group's summit in 2013 assessed donor performance on this score as just satisfactory.

56. Although Africa's share of OECD/Development Assistance Committee aid allocation is the highest, Africa's share of total OECD/Development Assistance Committee aid allocation has remained relatively constant, averaging around 37 per cent during the past three years. This indicates that donors are not prioritizing Africa in aid allocation, despite pledges to do so. This is a concern in view of the important role that aid has played in progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

57. The past decade has also witnessed the prominence of a diverse group of new partners in the aid landscape, including the BRICS group of countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. South-South cooperation has become an increasingly important complementary source of development financing. Overall, by 2011, annual concessional flows from emerging economies to low-income countries was estimated to range between $12 billion and $15 billion, which represented approximately 10 per cent of the amount of aid provided by the OECD/Development Assistance countries. China, which contributes about half of total aid flows from the BRICS countries, has increased its technical assistance grants at an annual rate of 25-30 per cent, reaching the annual amount of $67 billion, with about 40 per cent of these combined flows going to sub-Saharan Africa.

58. African countries and their development partners continue to implement their commitments on aid effectiveness in line with the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Although some progress has been made in areas such as strengthening ownership of development by recipients and untying aid, challenges persist. Overall progress on aid effectiveness has not been sufficient to meet most of the targets set in the Paris Declaration.

59. A 2014 OECD/United Nations Development Programme report on the implementation of the commitments agreed in Busan, Republic of Korea, found that despite challenges caused by the global financial crisis, commitment to aid effectiveness has remained strong. The report revealed that progress on untying aid continues, with the proportion of untied aid in Development Assistance Committee ODA rising from 77 per cent in 2010 to 79 per cent in 2012.

60. The proportion of untied aid to African countries increased marginally from an average 84 per cent to 85 per cent over the period 2010-2012. African least developed countries saw a significant increase, from an average 86 per cent in 2010 to 90 per cent in 2012. There was also some progress on aid predictability. For example, of the countries reporting to the global monitoring framework in 2013, 84 per cent of scheduled commitments made were disbursed as planned (within the fiscal year).

61. While ODA is playing a less important role in Africa today compared with the time of the Monterrey Consensus, recent trends in ODA flows, including in terms of volume, country allocation and predictability, show worrisome trends. In addition, aid effectiveness, in particular aid transparency, continues to pose a challenge to developing countries in respect of accessing up-to-date information about the development assistance necessary for planning and managing those resources effectively. This lack of information further complicates the process by which citizens can hold their Governments accountable for the use of public resources. The International Aid Transparency Initiative, a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to improve the transparency of aid, development and humanitarian resources, has brought together donors and recipients countries, civil society organizations and other experts to work on increasing the transparency of aid.

Commitment: pursue debt relief measures vigorously and expeditiously, where appropriate, including implementing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative speedily, effectively and in full

62. The HIPC and Multilateral Debt Relief initiatives have made substantial progress. Furthermore, the World Bank's Debt Reduction Facility has helped HIPCs to extinguish commercial debts at a steep discount. Under the Evian approach, development partners have supported non-HIPC African countries' efforts to manage their debt problems, including through partial write-offs. Of the 33 African countries currently eligible or potentially eligible under HIPC, 29 have reached the completion point and received irrevocable debt relief under HIPC and 100 per cent debt cancellation under the Multi' teral Debt Relief Initiative. The total debt relief effort for all eligible African HIPCs amounted to $105 billion in nominal terms by end-2012. More than $5.5 billion of external commercial debt, which is not covered by the HIPC Initiative, has also been written-off in 15 African HIPCs supported by the Debt Reduction Facility. As a result of these actions, debt service payments expressed as a share of exports fell from 11.5 per cent in 2000 to 4.5 per cent in 2012.

63. Nevertheless, several challenges remain. For the four African countries (Chad, Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan) that have not yet completed the requirements for full debt relief, sustained domestic efforts and continued support from the international community are needed in the interim period. Secondly, securing the participation of private creditors and non-Paris Club bilateral donors in the HIPC process remains incomplete. In addition, Africa's total external debt stocks have risen by 70 per cent from the height of the HIPC/Multilateral Debt Relief initiatives in 2006 to reach $331 billion in 2012, with most of the build-up caused by commercial debts. This has led to a worsening of debt sustainability among the 30 African countries that have completed the HIPC process, with 15 facing moderate risk and 4 facing high risk of debt distress. While the HIPC and the Multilateral Debt Relief initiatives have managed to reduce the large debt overhang

of many African countries, the international community still lacks an international bankruptcy procedure for sovereign debt restructuring for low-income countries. This situation may have important implications for the cost and speed of the resolution of debt problems in the future — a likely occurrence in view of current trends in debt sustainability for low-income countries in Africa. In addition, with more diversified sources of international financing, managing international debt in low-income countries in Africa has become more complex and challenging.

Commitment: enhance tax revenues through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, broadening the tax base and effectively combating tax evasion; promote international cooperation in tax matters; strengthen national and multilateral efforts to address capital flight

64. African Governments have pledged to strengthen public revenue and curb illicit financial flows (which is addressed in the report under the theme "Good governance"). The domestic resource mobilization pillar of the Group of 20 Multi-Year Action Plan on Development, adopted in Seoul in 2010, includes commitments to support the development of more effective tax systems and to support work to prevent erosion of tax bases.

65. Many African countries have improved the efficiency and effectiveness of their revenue mobilization efforts by broadening their tax base and by establishing autonomous revenue authorities. Most African countries have adopted value added taxes and several have instituted transfer pricing legislation. Twenty-four resource-rich African countries have joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, which aims to ensure better governance through the verification and full publication of payments and revenues. The African Tax Administration Forum, which has 36 countries as members, has created a platform to help African tax administrations share good practices, set tax priorities and improve fiscal legitimacy.

66. International efforts on tax issues have also been scaled up. The OECD Task Force on Tax and Development provides support for developing countries on combating tax avoidance and evasion and building effective transfer pricing regimes. The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes now includes 17 African countries. In addition to measures designed to encourage the exchange of tax information, the Global Forum on Transfer Pricing has been established and the United Nations has published the *Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries*, providing guidance on the policy and administrative aspects of applying transfer pricing analysis to transactions of multinational enterprises.

67. Since Monterrey, Africa has almost quadrupled its domestic revenue collection which exceeded $570 billion in 2013, or more than 10 times the level of development assistance. All African country groupings have shown progress in mobilizing domestic resources, with the most significant increase in resource-rich countries. As a share of GDP, total government revenue excluding grants increased from 24.2 per cent in 2002 to a high of almost 33 per cent in 2008, helped by high commodity prices. The global economic crisis caused a sharp fall in public revenue in 2009 which has since partly recovered. As a percentage of GDP, government revenue declined by 2 percentage points, to 26.7 per cent in 2013, but the fall applied mainly to large oil exporters.

68. In spite of the good progress in domestic revenue mobilization, a significant gap remains between Africa and developed countries. Compared with more developed countries, the tax base in most African countries remains relatively narrow and a large number of companies operate in the informal sector and thus go untaxed. Bureaucratic red tape in many countries often forces small firms to operate in the informal sector. In addition, expanding free trade arrangements and tax competition to attract foreign investments have further narrowed the tax base in many countries. As a result, tax-paying companies that are operating in the formal sector end up having to bear the brunt of taxes facing the world's highest tax rates. Moreover, illicit financial flows are hampering the ability of many countries to mobilize domestic resources for development.

Commitment: create the necessary domestic and international conditions to facilitate direct investment flows and strengthen efforts to assist developing countries in attracting private capital and foreign direct investment

69. African leaders committed to encourage and boost private capital flows as a long-term approach to addressing Africa's resource gap. Many African countries have put in place incentives to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). African countries have signed over 1,300 bilateral investment treaties and other international investment agreements with the aim of providing protection to foreign investors. According to the World Bank report *Doing Business 2014*, 31 of 47 Governments in sub-Saharan Africa implemented at least one regulatory reform in the period 2012-2013 and, of the 20 economies narrowing the gap with the regulatory frontier the most since 2009, 9 are located in Africa.

70. Improved macroeconomic and regulatory environments have increased the region's attractiveness to international investors. This has been a key factor in the mobilization of foreign investment. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, inflows of FDI to Africa rose by 4 per cent in 2013 to $57 billion. Although modest in size from a global perspective, FDI inflows to Africa have had a significant impact. FDI accounted for more than 20 per cent of total investment in more than a third of African countries and has helped to raise the investment ratio by almost 4 percentage points since the late 1990s. Although the extractive sectors received the bulk of the investment, manufacturing and services now make up about two thirds of the value of newly announced FDI projects in 2013. Technology firms have also started to invest in innovation in Africa. Estimates by the African Development Bank based on a sample of 34 countries for the period 2004-2008 show that the impact of FDI on savings and investments is 5 to 7 times larger than ODA. Expectations for further sustained economic growth and the rising middle class serve to strengthen investors' increasing appetite in Africa.

71. Portfolio equity flows to sub-Saharan Africa, which declined during the global crisis, recovered to 2007 levels in the period 2009-2010, encouraged by the establishment of a number of Africa-focused private equity funds. While they were dampened by the eurozone crisis in 2011, they have since recovered to reach almost $10 billion in 2013. While South Africa and Nigeria have traditionally been the major recipients of portfolio equity in Africa, several other African countries have received portfolio equity flows in excess of $500 million per annum in recent years.

72. African Governments have widened their funding base by tapping into international bond markets. In addition to South Africa, which has a long history in

accessing this market, 16 other African countries have issued sovereign bonds in the past three years. Most of these issues have been oversubscribed, which has allowed some countries to come back to the market with follow-on bonds. Net Eurobond inflows for Africa were estimated at $10 billion in 2013. However, large private capital inflows may lead to more complex and challenging national debt management and could heighten the risk of unsustainable debt.

73. While developing countries are increasingly participating in global value chains to capture the benefits of value addition from investments — the developing-country share in global value added trade increased from 20 per cent in 1990 to over 40 per cent in 2014 — Africa is still struggling to gain access to global value chains beyond natural resource exports, with a global value chain of 6 per cent. In the light of this, the African Union has identified industrialization as a key pillar of Africa's transformative agenda, along with infrastructure development. The Dakar Agenda for Action, adopted at the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure on 15 June 2014 in Senegal, underscored the critical need for national and regional infrastructure development to achieve the continent's longer-term growth goals.

C. Environmental sustainability and climate change

74. Africa is making progress towards Millennium Development Goal 7, but achieving environmental sustainability remains a challenge overall, resulting in mixed progress. While the continent is doing well in limiting carbon dioxide emissions and has reduced its consumption of ozone-depleting substances, the forest cover is contracting and the continent remains far off-track for meeting targets related to water and sanitation. Beyond Goal 7, Africa faces significant environmental challenges, including deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, land degradation, drought, loss of biodiversity, depletion of fish stocks and the effects of climate change. At the same time, these challenges represent opportunities for change. The concept of a green economy has received broad support within Africa but will require significant support from development partners, including through the mobilization of new financial resources from public and private sources and the transfer of technology.

75. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development world leaders recognized the importance of the three Rio conventions for advancing sustainable development and, in that regard, urged all parties to fully implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. They also addressed a number of concerns under the environmental pillar and emphasized the importance of ensuring balanced integration of all three pillars of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental. In addition, they strongly reaffirmed all of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular the principle common but differentiated responsibilities.

Commitment: integrate environmental sustainability into development planning

76. African countries have committed to integrate environmental sustainability into development planning since the United Nations Conference on Environment

and Development in 1992,[6] a commitment that has been reaffirmed in the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in 2002, the Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the 2005 World Summit.

77. At the national level, African countries have integrated pro-poor environmental sustainability in national development plans and sector plans. About half of African countries have reached the target of protecting at least 10 per cent of their territorial and marine areas, compared with 20 countries in 1990. A total of 53 African countries have completed national biodiversity strategies and action plans and two thirds are developing or implementing national forest programmes. In addition, as of 2013, 31 African least developed countries have developed national adaptation programmes of action on climate change and 21 of them are implementing climate adaptation projects. While some national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national adaptation programmes of action on climate change have moved to action, however, implementation has been weak and effectiveness has been limited in most countries. Progress is hampered by limited institutional capacity, poor data and weak priority-setting, compounded by the limited political influence and budgetary resources of environment ministries.

78. At the regional level, the NEPAD Agency continued to support the development of subregional environment action plans as well as the implementation of key regional programmes under the African Union-NEPAD Environment Action Plan, including programmes to combat land degradation, desertification and drought, conserve African wetlands, and enhance transboundary water management and the management of natural resources. In collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, the NEPAD Agency is supporting the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel, which aims to meet the challenges of desert encroachment in 11 African countries by restoring the viability of ecosystems and production systems in rural areas by 2025.

79. While African Governments have taken the lead in formulating and implementing national and regional sustainable development strategies, international support remains crucial. Development partners' support for general environmental protection in Africa has increased in recent years. Since 1991, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has supported over 872 projects in Africa valued at $2.3 billion. Other initiatives have also helped to mobilize significant support. The TerrAfrica Initiative, an international partnership launched in 2005 by NEPAD and the African Development Bank, has leveraged $1.2 billion to scale up sustainable land and water management in 24 countries. The Congo Basin Forest Fund has approved funding for more than 41 projects in five countries.

80. These efforts notwithstanding, on average African Governments allocate less than 3 per cent of national budgets to environment ministries and support for the environment represents less than 2 per cent of total ODA to Africa. In addition, constraints to technology transfers are complex and problems related to the intellectual property rights regime remain largely unresolved. Inadequate capacity and know-how required to adapt and use the technologies also remain major

[6] Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states, "In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it."

impediments. All of these shortcomings will have to be addressed in order to achieve full implementation of this commitment.

Commitment: mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions

81. In Africa, climate change poses a significant threat to economic, social and environmental development. The fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change presents strong evidence that warming in Africa has increased significantly over the past 50 to 100 years, with clear effects on the health, livelihoods and food security of people on the continent. This has created considerable health and economic challenges for the continent, including increased water scarcity and the spread of weather-sensitive diseases as well as reduced crop yields and livestock productivity. Extreme weather events, including droughts, floods and heat waves are expected to become more frequent and agricultural yield losses are projected to reach 22 per cent across sub-Saharan Africa, with increases in the frequency and prevalence of failed crop seasons.

82. The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with 192 parties as of 2013, is the major global commitment for climate change mitigation. As part of the Kyoto Protocol, many developed countries agreed to legally binding limitations/reductions in their emissions of greenhouse gases. Under the first commitment period of the Protocol, 37 industrialized countries, including the 15 States of the European Union, committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5 per cent below 1990 levels by 2012. Under the second commitment period, developed countries committed to reduce emissions by at least 18 per cent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020.

83. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, world leaders noted with concern the significant gap between the mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above preindustrial levels. In the aggregate, developed countries and countries with economies in transition have reduced emissions by 9.3 per cent between 1990 and 2011, primarily as a result of significant reductions in transition economies. Excluding transition economies, emissions from the other industrialized countries have risen by 4.9 per cent during the same period. Demand for energy, which accounts for all more than two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions, has continued to rise in recent years owing to increasing industrialization and rising living standards, and is expected to continue rising. Despite this reality, calls for acceleration of emissions reductions and for commitments to more ambitious emissions targets by industrialized countries have so far yielded few meaningful results.

84. Given the importance of the Kyoto Protocol commitments, committed parties should take significant steps on mitigation. Several countries have done so in a variety of ways, including by putting a price on industrial emissions and pledging to reduce carbon intensity. These and other successful efforts should be intensified and replicated.

Commitment: mobilize $100 billion per year in new and additional climate change financing by 2020 and deliver $30 billion in fast-start financing for the period 2010-2012

85. The Bali Action Plan, adopted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2007, emphasized the need for enhanced action on the provision of financial resources to support action on mitigation, adaptation and technology cooperation in developing countries. In the Copenhagen Accord of 2009, developed countries committed to a goal of jointly mobilizing $100 billion dollars a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. Developed countries also pledged to provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, approaching $30 billion for the period 2010-2012, with a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation (known as fast-start financing).

86. Most of the climate change financial resources for Africa have originated from four funds established under the aegis of the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol — the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.[7] In 2010, parties to the Climate Change Convention established the Green Climate Fund as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention. The Green Climate Fund is to support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country parties and countries are now in the process of working towards its full operationalization and initial capitalization. Beyond the Climate Change Convention, dedicated multilateral climate funds, which are channelled through the World Bank Group and the four regional development banks, have made limited disbursements in Africa. A number of specialized funds such as the Congo Basin Forest Fund, the MDG Achievement Fund and the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme), have been established to help reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

87. Overall, disbursements of climate finance to Africa are far off-track for meeting the continent's financing needs. Compared with Africa's adaptation costs of $8 billion a year by 2020 according to World Bank estimates, the continent has received an estimated $750 million from multilateral climate funds. In addition, the vast majority of funds disbursed have gone to mitigation rather than to adaptation and technology. With regard to fast-start financing, about half of the total funds disbursed have been in the form of loans, guarantees and insurance, including export-credit finance for developed country companies. In addition, procedures to access funds have been complex and lengthy.

[7] Cumulative pledges to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund reached $879 million and $333 million, respectively in February 2014. A total of $726 million and $242 million have been disbursed from these 2 funds, respectively. Some 69 per cent of Least Developed Countries Fund resources and 28 per cent of Special Climate Change Fund resources have been allocated to Africa. Of the 50 countries that have completed their national adaptation programmes of action, 48 have accessed a total of $817 million for 150 projects to address their urgent and immediate adaptation needs.

D. Good governance

88. As highlighted in the Secretary-General's progress report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/69/162), African countries recognize that good governance is the foundation for political stability and democracy, and is essential to sustained economic growth and development. Consequently, African Governments have made several commitments in the area of promoting and sustaining good governance. These commitments are articulated in various regional frameworks and instruments such as the African Peer Review Mechanism; the African Governance Architecture; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance; the African Union Declaration of Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa; the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption; and the African Mining Vision for Transparent and Equitable Exploitation of Mineral Resources. African countries and their development partners, through the United Nations and other partnership arrangements, have also subscribed to relevant international instruments and initiatives such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

89. The African Union Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration reaffirmed the determination of African countries to anchor their Governments and institutions on the respect of the rule of law, human rights, dignity, popular participation and management of diversity and inclusive democracy. The Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda attaches high priority to peace and security as essential to the achievement of the continent's development aspirations, in particular tackling the economic and social inequalities and exclusion; strengthening good and inclusive governance; fighting against all forms of discrimination; and forging unity in diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms. Progress on these issues will be essential for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

Commitment: hold regular free, fair and transparent elections and establish independent national electoral bodies responsible for the management of elections

90. Elections are the cornerstone of managing political transitions in Africa. The African Union has offered a range of support to African countries' electoral efforts. In 2013, the African Union Long-Term Observer Mission witnessed elections, on a pilot basis, in five countries. Its Short-Term Observer Mission witnessed elections in 13 African countries. The African Union also provided Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training workshops for officials of election management boards from eight countries.

91. As of February 2014, 34 African countries have subscribed to the African Peer Review Mechanism. In doing so, these countries have committed to a broad array of international and regional governance norms and standards. In the area of elections, electoral bodies and management of elections, African Peer Review Mechanism member countries have committed to the regular organization of free and fair elections as one of the principal means for ensuring popular participation in the constitution of the government and the monitoring of its performance. Member countries are reviewed on their progress in implementing the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the Declaration on Principles Governing

Democratic Elections in Africa, among other instruments. In conducting African Peer Review Mechanism reviews, which have been completed for 17 of the 31 members, countries are assessed on the effectiveness of their electoral system, with a particular focus on the independence of the election management institutions, political corruption and effectiveness in delivering results that are adjudged to be broadly free and fair. Most African countries have established electoral management boards, popularly referred to as electoral commissions, to manage their national elections.

92. A particularly significant improvement has been the increased focus on women's political participation and representation in electoral processes. A key indicator of this trend is the number of women representatives in parliaments in Africa. As at 1 May 2014, women representatives accounted for over a third of the members of the lower or single house of parliaments in seven African countries.[8] These positive trends are a testament to the determination of African Governments to deliver on their commitment to regular, free, fair and transparent elections. Africa's development partners have demonstrated their support for free and fair elections in the region by sending observer missions, providing financial support for the electoral budgets of several countries and offering technical and financial support for strengthening the capacity of the national electoral bodies.

93. Africa has made important strides in recent years in conducting and managing elections. Legislative elections were held in 19 countries and presidential elections in 8 countries in Africa during the biennium 2012-2013. Most of the elections were held on the regularly scheduled dates and concluded without major incidents. This positive trend is in contrast with the first decade of the century when civil strife and violence erupted in the context of elections in Kenya in 2007, in Zimbabwe in 2008 and in Côte d'Ivoire in 2010. The incidence of violence in electoral contexts in Africa calls into question whether the "winner takes all" culture prevailing in some African countries is the most appropriate organizing framework of democratic process in Africa after an election.

94. In spite of the progress made in the conduct of elections in Africa and in the establishment of electoral commissions, serious challenges remain. Electoral bodies, in particular, are characterized by a lack of financial autonomy, excessive executive interference in their operations and the lack of security of tenure for the electoral commissioners. Several elections have been marked by intimidation of opponents before, during and after elections. Financial allocations for elections are frequently inadequate and disbursed very slowly, and the adjudication of post-election disputes remains slow in many countries. African Peer Review Mechanism country reviews have highlighted all of these issues.

Commitment: implement the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption

95. The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption aims to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption and related offences in Africa. Currently, 45 countries have signed the Convention and 31 have ratified it. Under the Convention, countries are required to promulgate laws to incorporate the

[8] Rwanda, 63.8 per cent; South Africa, 48.9 per cent; Seychelles, 43.8 per cent; Senegal, 43.3 per cent; Mozambique, 39.2 per cent; United Republic of Tanzania, 36.0 per cent; and Uganda, 35.0 per cent.

provisions of the Convention; designate, create or strengthen national bodies to prevent and combat corruption; and undertake efforts to recover illegally acquired wealth by public officials. While several African Governments have enacted anti-corruption laws, a majority of the State parties to the Convention have yet to enact legislation and other measures to give practical effect to such key provisions of the Convention as ensuring that illegal and corrupt practices are not used to fund political parties, incorporating the principle of transparency into the funding of political parties and requiring public officials to declare their assets.

96. To support African Governments in adopting the required policy measures, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption has collaborated with ECA to develop a regional anti-corruption programme for Africa for 2011-2016 that focuses on peer learning, knowledge exchange, technical support and capacity development. The Advisory Board also undertook advocacy missions to several African countries in 2012 and 2013 to increase awareness on the imperative of anti-corruption measures as well as to assess progress made and challenges encountered by States parties in the implementation of the Convention.

97. The preliminary findings of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, established in 2012, indicate that illicit financial flows have "serious adverse consequences on African development with the most obvious impact being the loss of public revenue". According to ECA, the scale of illicit financial flows from Africa owing to trade mispricing alone is approaching $60 billion per year.

98. Africa's development partners have supported the continent's anti-corruption efforts through a composite of policy measures, including incorporating anti-bribery provisions in their national laws and helping in the recovery of stolen assets. For example, the Group of 20 has adopted the Anti-Corruption Action Plan and issued several progress reports. The commitments in the Action Plan include combating money-laundering, supporting the recovery of stolen assets and promoting transparency in the extractives sector. The work of the Stolen Assets Recovery (StAR) initiative represents an important contribution by the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to aid anti-corruption efforts by helping developing countries establish institutions and use appropriate legal tools and channels for recovering stolen assets.

99. Anti-corruption efforts in Africa are beginning to tilt public policy orientation in the direction of greater transparency and accountability in public financial management. That is an important step in the right direction, as is the growing determination by Africa's development partners to track and curb the flow of ill-gotten wealth by public officials.

100. National anti-corruption bodies in Africa face a daunting array of challenges. A lack of adequate funding continues to impede their work. In addition, many national anti-corruption bodies lack specialized skills for complex investigations, thus hampering their ability to articulate a strong case for prosecution. As a result, national anti-corruption bodies have either had their cases thrown out or failed to secure convictions in courts, thus weakening public confidence in their performance.

Commitment: ensure equitable exploitation and transparent management of natural resources

101. African Governments are increasingly enacting legislation that strengthen transparency in the award of contracts or concessions in extractive sectors, in order to enhance the collection and utilization of revenue from those sectors. Such legislation has typically provided for monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. The African Mineral Policy Research Centre, established in 2013, serves as the policy implementation organ of the African Mining Vision, a continental tool for guiding the prudent, transparent and efficient development and management of Africa's mineral resources.

102. Several of Africa's development partners have adopted legislation and other policy measures that strengthen transparency of corporate entities in their countries. For example, major development partners such as the United States of America and the European Union have adopted legislations that compel corporations that are listed in its stock exchanges to disclose information and data on the fees, taxes and royalties paid to host country authorities on a project-by-project basis. A European Union directive, which is expected to come into force in 2015, will require extractive and logging companies to report on a country-by-country and project-by-project basis. This directive will be applicable both to listed and unlisted companies within the host jurisdictions. The European Union is also cooperating on the governance of natural resources, in particular minerals, to increase revenue transparency, link extractive industries to productive value chains and enhance geological knowledge and skills.

103. Legislative and other policy measures by African countries and their development partners are not only raising awareness of the importance of financial transparency in natural resource management but are also gradually reducing the potential for financial impropriety.

104. Despite progress made by African Governments and their development partners, several challenges remain. On the African side, there continues to be significant gap between the intent reflected in legislation and its ultimate implementation, as evidenced in occasional reports of missing monies from earnings in the natural resources sector in some African countries and of financial malfeasance of public officials working in the natural resource sector. On the side of development partners, there are still considerable legal and administrative barriers to quick recovery and repatriation of ill-gotten funds to African countries. Moreover, there have been frequent cases of collusion between foreign firms and African government officials in inflating costs of payments for contracts leading to both reduced revenue for, and illicit flows from, African countries.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

105. The present interim report recognizes the need for a renewed collective effort for a global partnership for Africa, built on strengthened mutual accountability and on more rigorous monitoring of commitments. Africa today is faced with a confluence of positive factors such as unprecedented and sustained economic growth in many African countries resulting from sound macroeconomic policies, structural reforms and rising flows of FDI. On top of this favourable short-term outlook, Agenda 2063, the continent's forthcoming, long-term transformative

development vision, will provide a comprehensive strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa.

106. While Africa's new development partners continue to make important contributions towards the continent's development, the lack of reliable data on their engagement makes it difficult to assess the impact of their growing partnership with the continent. Africa's new development partners should strengthen their efforts to monitor and report on their development cooperation activities in the spirit of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

107. In addition, there is a need for stronger support for the delivery of impactful results in the four selected areas:

(a) In the area of agriculture, food security and nutrition:

- To enhance agricultural trade within the region, African countries should strengthen regional cooperation and reduce cross-border trade restrictions. Regional integration policies, the establishment of the proposed Continental Free Trade Area by 2017 and the implementation of the action plan to boost intra-African trade adopted by the African Union Summit in 2012 will be important steps in this regard.

- To strengthen agricultural production, food security and nutrition on the continent, African countries and their development partners should redouble their efforts to support the CAADP framework. Specific measures should include improving technological capacities, reducing post-harvest losses, ensuring secure land access, increasing access to credit and markets, and mainstreaming nutrition in all food security programmes and strategies. Efforts to address climate change, by increasing agricultural productivity, enhancing resilience and, where possible, mitigating emissions, should also be supported.

- African countries should intensify their efforts to meet the Maputo Declaration target of investing 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agricultural development. To support these efforts, Africa's development partners should intensify their efforts to increase the percentage of their ODA dedicated to agricultural development and ensure prompt delivery of resources pledged.

- African countries should also strengthen regional coordination by enhancing regional food reserve systems and improving regional information and data systems for nutrition and early warning.

- Development partners should fulfil the delivery of existing commitments under the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. Additional measures at the international level should include further reform of agricultural markets to enable African farmers to trade freely in global markets and the conclusion of an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced Doha Development Round.

- Development partners should address the negative impact of subsidies imposed by importing nations that prevent the expansion of African agricultural exports, continuing their efforts to eliminate trade barriers to these African exports. They should also support the promotion of agro-industry and progress in the value chain in Africa, so as to stimulate African exports of agro-industrial products.

(b) In the area of financing for development:

- African Governments should scale up efforts to increase domestic resource mobilization, including through broadening their tax bases, reducing exemptions and implementing more effective taxation as part of natural resource management.

- In order to attract and derive greater benefits from private sector investments, African Governments should accelerate improvements in the business environment, including through reforming and enhancing regulatory processes and strengthening legal institutions.

- African Governments and their development partners should continue to make efforts to improve aid effectiveness in line with the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. In particular, African countries should make efforts to strengthen institutions, including national accountability frameworks. Traditional development partners should make efforts to increase the use of recipient public financial management system and provide appropriate support to African countries to strengthen their public institutions.

- For more reliable debt sustainability assessments, African Governments and their development partners should work together to improve the timeliness and coverage of sovereign debt data based on both creditor and debtor reporting systems.

- In order to curb illicit financial flows, development partners should strengthen efforts to tackle illicit flows from Africa. Development partners should also broaden international cooperation on tax matters and provide greater financial and capacity-building support for tax-related efforts in African countries.

- Traditional development partners should redouble efforts to meet ODA commitments to Africa, to reach the 0.7 per cent of gross national income to ODA committed in Monterrey and ensure aid predictability and transparency for recipient African countries.

- The international community should more actively pursue the development of an agreed approach/mechanism for sovereign debt workouts to ensure legal predictability and timely debt restructuring that includes fair burden sharing. In order to improve the cost and speed of debt resolution, the international community should also consider establishing an international bankruptcy procedure for sovereign debt restructuring for low-income countries.

- There is a strong need to mobilize both public and private sector investment in the region's structural transformation, particularly for industrialization and infrastructure. In support of this aim, African countries and their development partners should work to mobilize financial resources towards achieving the vision of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Dakar Agenda for Action.

(c) In the area of environmental sustainability and climate change:

- All countries, in particular industrialized countries, should work to ensure a successful outcome on an ambitious, global legal agreement by 2015 that limits the world to a less than 2°C rise in global temperature.

- Renewed efforts are needed by African Governments and regional and continental organizations to prioritize sustainable development in the allocation of resources in accordance with national priorities and needs. African countries should strengthen implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national adaptation programmes of action on climate change, particularly though enhancing the budgetary resources, institutional capacity, data and priority-setting of their environment ministries.

- Governments and the private sector should strengthen their collaboration towards Sustainable Energy for All, in an effort to generate a triple win for poverty reduction, economic growth and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- Beyond reducing emissions, development partners should also take comprehensive action to support African countries in areas that strengthen climate resilience, including through adaptation, technology transfer, disaster risk reduction and sustainable cities and transportation.

- To meet commitments on financing, there is a need for tangible progress on climate finance. While $30 billion of fast-start financing is pledged, there is need for greater transparency in how the funds are allocated and disbursed. On longer-term financing, efforts to mobilize $100 billion per annum by 2020 should emphasize governmental, private sector and innovative new sources of financing, while also ensuring the predictability of this financing. For all climate financing, there is also need for prompt delivery of funds to where they are most needed, with greater balance between mitigation, adaptation and technology. Prompt initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund is of particular importance for African countries.

- Improved transparency on climate finance in both developed and developing countries is critical to ensure mutual accountability and understanding of whether countries are meeting their commitments.

- In addition to financial support, development partners should make greater efforts to remove constraints to technology transfer to African countries. New development partners should also strengthen efforts to share suitable technologies and support capacity development in African countries.

(d) In the area of good governance:

- African countries that have not done so should consider subscribing to the African Peer Review Mechanism and actively participate in all of its activities, including its periodic reviews. Africa's development partners and the United Nations should strengthen their support for the African Peer Review Mechanism, including through financial and capacity-building assistance.

- African countries should carefully consider proportional representation as an alternative process to the "winner-takes-all" approach used for elections in many countries, and should also strengthen efforts towards national reconciliation after elections.

- African Governments should enhance the independence of the electoral bodies, both by strengthening their technical capacity and providing adequate funding for their operations. Technical and financial support from development

partners, the African Union and the regional economic commissions, as well as the United Nations, will be important in this regard.

- African Governments should intensify their individual and collective efforts to enact and/or strengthen legislation to enhance the funding, capacity and operational independence of anti-corruption bodies to enable them to perform their primary role of detecting, preventing and prosecuting cases of corruption both in the public and private sectors.

- While governance reforms hold great promise for Africa, efforts towards improving governance should always be undertaken with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the people.

- To combat corruption, national and international efforts must continue to focus not only on the adoption of appropriate legislation but also on strengthening the monitoring of financial disclosures and building capacities for robust enforcement. African Governments and their development partners should continue their efforts not only in adopting appropriate legislation but also in strengthening the monitoring of and compliance with laws and regulations aimed at increasing transparency in the mineral sector.

- Development partners should complement the efforts of African countries by strengthening national legislation against using their jurisdictions for money-laundering and prohibiting their banking institutions from holding ill-gotten wealth. All Member States should support the recovery and repatriation of ill-gotten wealth deposited in their financial institutions.

Annex

List of major monitoring mechanisms

Comprehensive monitoring mechanisms

Africa Partnership Forum

Global Monitoring Report (World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF))

The Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa Report (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD))

Sector-specific monitoring mechanisms

Official development assistance flows and aid effectiveness

International Development Statistics (OECD)

Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration (OECD)

Governance and security

African Governance Report (ECA)

African Peer Review Mechanism (African Union)

Afrobarometer

Cingranelli-Richards Human Rights Dataset

Commitment to Development Index (Center for Global Development)

Corruption Perceptions Index; or Bribe Payers Index (Transparency International)

Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (World Bank)

E-Governance Performance Index; global e-Government, or e-Government readiness reports (Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat)

Electoral Quotas for Women Database (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance)

Failed States Index (Foreign Policy and Fund for Peace)

Freedom of the Press survey (Freedom House)

GAPS in Workers' Rights (International Labour Organization (ILO))

Gender Empowerment Measure (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP))

Global Barometer Survey network (University of Strathclyde)

Global Integrity Index (Global Integrity)

Government at a Glance (OECD)

Human Rights Indicators (Danish Centre for Human Rights)

Ibrahim Index of African Governance (Mo Ibrahim Foundation)

Political Constraint Index (University of Pennsylvania)

Political Freedom (Freedom House)

Political Terror Scale (Purdue University)

Public Integrity Index (Center for Public Integrity)

Public Sector Efficiency and Performance (European Central Bank)

Public Sector Value Model (Accenture)

State Failure Problem Set (University of Maryland)

Uppsala Conflict Data Program Database

Urban Governance Index (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

Women in National Parliaments Statistical Archive (Inter-Parliamentary Union)

World Governance Assessment (United Nations University)

Worldwide Governance Indicators (World Bank)

Millennium Development Goals

Africa Millennium Development Goals progress reports

Development Cooperation Forum reports

Global Monitoring Report (World Bank, IMF)

Global Monitoring Report: Education for All (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Human Development Report (UNDP)

Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force Report

Millennium Development Goals Report

Global Report: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)

The State of World Population (United Nations Population Fund)

Economic indicators

African Economic Outlook (OECD, African Development Bank and ECA)

Country risk ratings (Economist Intelligence Unit) or International Country Risk Guide (Political Risk Services Group)

Ease of Doing Business Index (World Bank)

Economic Report on Africa (ECA and African Union)

Global Development Finance (World Bank)

Global Economic Prospects (World Bank)

Global Employment Trends (ILO)

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (London Business School)

Global Financial Stability Report (IMF)

Growth Competitiveness Index (World Economic Forum)

Index of Economic Freedom (Heritage Foundation and *The Wall Street Journal*)

International Trade Statistics (World Trade Organization)

Opacity Index (PricewaterhouseCoopers)

Business Environment and Enterprise Performance Survey (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank)

World Competitiveness Yearbook (Institute for Management Development)

World Development Report (World Bank)

World Economic Outlook; *Regional Economic Outlook* (IMF)

Civil society monitoring mechanisms

Africa Progress Panel, chaired by former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan

African Monitor, a non-governmental organization based in South Africa. Publishes the biennial *Development Support Monitor*

Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa (DATA). Annual DATA Report by the British non-governmental organization ONE tracks progress on all dimensions of development (social, political and economic indicators)

United Nations A/69/164

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 July 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Item 124 (v) of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The report of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization covering the year 2013 is hereby transmitted to the General Assembly pursuant to the provisions of article IV, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Regulate the Relationship between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission (General Assembly resolution 54/280, annex).

2. Since only a limited number of copies of the report are available, it has not been possible to make a full distribution. Delegations are therefore requested to have the copies transmitted to them available during discussion of the item.

* A/69/150.

14-57665 (E) 250814

Please recycle

United Nations A/69/165

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 July 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Item 65 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the panel discussion on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage

Note by the Secretary-General

In its resolution 68/146, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, inter alia, the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of the panel discussion on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, held at the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, for the consideration of the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

The Secretary-General has the honour to inform the General Assembly that the summary report of the panel discussion is contained in document A/HRC/27/34.

* A/69/150.

14-58011 (E) 280714

Please recycle

United Nations A/69/166

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 July 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Item 65 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage

Note by the Secretary-General

In its resolution 68/146, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, inter alia, the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, for its consideration at its sixty-ninth session.

The Secretary-General has the honour to inform the General Assembly that the report of the Office of the High Commissioner is contained in document A/HRC/26/22 and Corr.1.

* A/69/150.

14-58010 (E) 010814

Please recycle